Hafa Adai!

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75¢

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Takahisa Yamamoto pays NMS for custodian services. PAGE 6
Young people support Festival of Cultures. PAGE 12

BEA CABRERA
Brian Humphrey, left, director of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Donald Browne, senior vice president-Operations, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, hold up copies of the memorandum of understanding yesterday morning at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

IPI avails of fast-track immigration program

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and U.S. Customs and Border Protection inked a memorandum of understanding yesterday that would hasten the immigration process for IPI guests coming to the CNMI.

The MOU was for the Reimbursable Services Agreement Program that, according to IPI executive Donald Browne, basically eases the immigration process for IPI customers who enjoy coming here but don't want to wait for hours at immigration.

"It has been a long process but this is

See IPI on Page 4

Sewage overflow bugs casino

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Members of the Senate Gaming Committee were caught off-guard yesterday when the Commonwealth Casino Commission brought up the subject of alleged sewage overflow troubles at the casino in Garapan.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last week and yesterday that the matter has been "taken cared of" by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which runs the Imperial Pacific Resort.

Saipan Tribune learned that the overflow was not the first instance it has happened.

According to a casino employee who asked not to be named, leaks have been plaguing the facility—some of which have

See SEWAGE on Page 4

Internet temporarily crippled

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

IT&E services returned to normal at 1pm yesterday after a disruption in cellular and internet services that crippled communications and internet connection among its subscribers.

According to an IT&E press release, a damaged terrestrial fiber was the root cause of the service destabilization.

The damaged occurred at 3:30am due to what IT&E described as a "third-party" doing excavation work at the entrance of the IT&E corporate offices in Guam. Services in both the CNMI and Guam were affected.

The CNMI experienced loss of cellular data and internet services, while

See INTERNET on Page 4

8 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

Man gets 4 years in prison for choking, suffocating girlfriend in front of child

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A repeat offender from Palau who pleaded guilty to assaulting his girlfriend and threatening to kill her and her 2-year-old son was sentenced Wednesday to two years in prison.

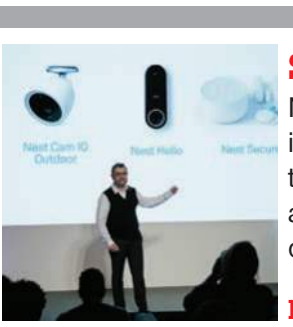
Twenty-seven-year-old Lawson Santiago Renguul Jr. was sentenced to a total of four years imprisonment, all suspended except for two years, for three counts of assault and battery, and one count of unlawful contact.

Besides threatening to kill her,

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
U.S. Coast Guard recruiters are on island to persuade eligible applicants to join.
PAGE 3



SCIENCE & TECH
Nest Labs is adding facial recognition technology to a camera-equipped doorbell.
PAGE 24

LIFE & STYLE
Caffeinated or not, Judi Dench, 82, remains fully energized.
PAGE 25

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

SARC gets 3 student referrals

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since the start of the school year, three students have already been referred to the committee that handles truancy cases in the CNMI, but despite the committee's limited staff, it is working hard to keep the number low.

According to Bobby L. Coldeen III, coordinator of the School Attendance Review Committee, the three new student referrals are from Marianas High School, Dandan Middle School, and Kagman High School.

"SARC has accepted these cases and are currently working with these students, their families, and their schools," he said in his report to the Board of Education on Wednesday.

SARC was formed in 2014 to serve as an avenue for public schools to provide intervention for juveniles and their families in addressing truancy, irregular attendance, or insubordinate or disorderly behavior in school before referral to the juvenile justice system.

Total SARC referrals as of Sept. 18, 2017, is 84.

Past cases of truancy does not end when the school year ends. Coldeen said that SARC has also been monitoring students who were referred last year school year.

"We are working…with their school counselors to provide updates on attendance and check-ins with these students. A vast majority is currently reporting to school everyday with the exception of a few," said Coldeen.

"SARC is currently investigating, conducting home visits, as well as coordinating new interventions/strategies for these particular students," he added.

Outreach and support has also been a focus and formula used by SARC to stay effective.

"SARC has been presenting to school staff and is scheduled to present to more schools this month. The main focus here is to ensure all Public School System staff is familiar with the…committee, the student referral process, and how they can contribute to improving student attendance," said Coldeen. "I have also been working with school principals."

SARC is also working with Colleen Diaz from the Family Enhancement Program to better provide resources to these at-risk students and their families, said Coldeen.

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US Coast Guard recruiters make foray in NMI schools

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Coast Guard recruiters are currently on island to persuade eligible applicants to join the only military organization within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

USCG recruiters visited Kagman High School yesterday and will be swinging by Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Grace Christian Academy as part of their recruitment drive from Sept. 19 to 22.

Petty Officer First Class Mark Prijic and Lt. Jonathan R. Girot spoke to 165 Kagman High School seniors and several juniors yesterday about the Coast Guard.

Prijic said he joined the Coast Guard because of the influence his sister who was an information system technician of the Coast Guard. He shared with students that the Coast Guard performs 11 official missions, all of which safeguard the United States' maritime interests and environment around the world.

Girot, who is also a Coast Guard enforcement division chief, told the students that he shifted majors three times in college because he was looking to do something worthwhile.

When he joined the Coast Guard, he said this opened a lot of opportunities for him as it allowed him to travel and his first deployment was in the Caribbean and South America.

According to Kagman High School senior counselor Valerie Deleon Guerrero-Quitano, this was the first time that the Coast Guard visited Saipan for recruitment because it has always been just the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines that would come.

"It's really important for them to see these kinds of presentation because it opens their eyes to different opportunities. Right now we have different branches coming in to meet with our students to entice them to join," she said.

"We have been conducting several outreach to our students because come November, the seniors and juniors will be taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test," she added.

The Marine Corps is set to come next week and the Army is expected to come in October.

"In October, we would be having the U.S. Army to explain what the ASVAB is all about and the different battery tests that the U.S. Army has to help students reach their goals and potential in serving in the military," said Quitano.

"I, for one, joined the military and after six years of service, I came back. Now that I am a counselor, I do push my students because coming out of high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do then. I ended up joining the U.S. Army and it actually opened my eyes to see the different occupations that are out there, not just what I see here on island," she added.

According to Quitano, among Kagman senior students, 50 percent want to go to a university, 40 percent want to go to the military, and 10 percent are still unsure.

"I tell the students that some of them may not be interested right now but later, especially when it's closer to graduation, that is when they are going to start wondering what they are going to do," she said.

"I am hoping that I could actually persuade the students to be pro-active. Some students say college is not for them, military is not for them, but I encourage them and say 'just do something.' It doesn't matter what it is you do but find yourself and do something," she added.

For those who have graduated high school or would like more time with USCG recruiters Prijic and Girot, they will be posted at the Saipan Mayor's Office, Beach Road, from 1pm to 5pm each afternoon this week. Visit gocoastguard.com to know more.

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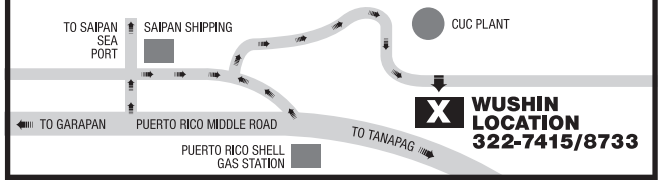

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For United Airlines® ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations>Promos and Communications > FHB.

MAN

From Page 1

he was accused of dragging, choking, and suffocating his girlfriend with a pillow at their apartment on Capital Hill.

Renguul was given credit for time served. He was ordered to serve the two-year sentence without the possibility of parole.

He was required to perform 200 hours of community service and complete counseling. He is also prohibited from having any contact with the victim and her son.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the sentence is appropriate because Renguul hit his girlfriend in the presence of her child.

Renguul, in defiance of a protection order, made contact with the victim, Camacho said.

The judge did note that the victim was not seriously hurt and did not require medical treatment.

In her statement, the victim said she and her son continue to suffer mentally, that Renguul had threatened to kill her son to prevent her from calling the police.

Camacho gave weight to Renguul's prior criminal conviction in Palau.

He noted that Renguul's own sister wrote a letter to the court to ask that Renguul not be sent back to Palau as he is a troublemaker and that there are no rehabilitation or counseling there.

Renguul admitted to drinking alcohol every day, but denied using drugs.

The judge deemed Renguul, a citizen of Palau, to be not a good candidate for rehabilitation.

Camacho directed the clerk of court to provide the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement a copy of the sentencing and commitment order.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub recommended the maximum sentence of four years in prison. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Renguul, recommended a prison sentence of one year and probation.

Hartig argued that Camacho mechanically imposes maximum sentences, which the judge denied. Citing records, he said Hartig exaggerates by "cherry picking" samples of Camacho's judgments and commitment orders.

Renguul pleaded guilty to three counts of assault and battery-domestic violence, and one count of unlawful contact as part of a plea deal.

The Office of the Attorney General first charged Renggul last Aug. 31 with six charges, which carry a maximum sentence of nine years in prison.

Last Feb. 1, the OAG filed a fourth amended information containing four charges to reflect that count 4 assault and battery-domestic violence is a lesser-included offense for the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. The charges still carry a maximum sentence of four years.

Renguul has no prior convictions in the CNMI.

According to the plea agreement, Renguul brandished and hit the victim in the stomach with a knife during their argument on Aug. 2, 2016.

Renguul put his arm around the victim's neck and covered her nose and mouth on Aug. 18, 2016.

Renguul was arrested on Aug 19, 2016. He was later released as police then did further investigation.

After his release on Aug. 20, Renguul went to the victim's residence, located the victim in her car, jumped on the hood, and threatened to hurt her.

Renguul entered the car and removed her son from the vehicle while she was on the phone with the police.

Renguul attempted to communicate to the victim with the intent of encouraging her to drop the charges, or not cooperate with the investigation or prosecution of the case.

SAIPAN RECRUITMENT
U.S. Coast Guard recruiter Lt. Jonathan Girot makes a PowerPoint and video presentation at Kagman High School yesterday to encourage the students to join the Coast Guard.

See story on Page 3

BEA CABRERA

INTERNET

From Page 1

Guam experienced loss of cellular data and some of its enterprise services.

"The CNMI access out of the region travels through Guam. Although redundant paths exist between the CNMI and Guam at our facility, all circuits were cut at the building entry point. In the future, a completely separate building entry point will be utilized, eliminating the risk of a single point of failure," said IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking.

Joe (not his real name) learned of the disruption when he tried to surf the Web at 4am on his laptop. Unable to connect to the internet, he tried surfing the Web on his iPad, still to no avail. When he was still unable to connect to the internet via his mobile phone, he knew that there must be something wrong at IT&E's end. It was only after 6am that he was finally able to connect to the Web.

Initial restoration of services began at 6:20am, with full restoration expected at 8:30am, but due to the number of cables that were damaged, additional maintenance was required, which resulted in intermittent service disruptions for subscribers in the CNMI and Guam.

By 1pm, services were restored and stabilized.

SEWAGE

From Page 1

a rancid stench and unpleasant color. This was his/her fourth experience with the leaks. The worst incident happened earlier this week.

"The smell was really bad," the employee said, referring to a liquid-like substance on the floor of the men's locker room.

He/she described the liquid as "brownish" and believes it to be human waste due to its appearance and smell. The area's floor is made up of white tiles, which made the color of the liquid even more noticeable.

There are leaks in the VIP room area as well, the employee said, although not to the degree of that in the men's underground locker rooms in terms of odor and appearance.

"Maintenance personnel need to use a vacuum and a blower just to clean it up," said the employee, adding that it is suspected the liquid runs down the walls onto the floor.

Big concern

Members of the Senate Gaming Committee that attended yesterday's meeting with the casino commission expressed shock about the leaks.

Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said the situation as a "big concern" due to sanitation and public health that could arise should it be confirmed that the leak is indeed wastewater.

"Something like this shouldn't have happened," he said, particularly since IPI executives have already assured the casino commission that they have already addressed the situation.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the Division of Public Health informed the commission last week of a leak in the facility.

He said the manual setting of a pump behind a locked door caused the leak. The drainage pump reportedly has two settings: manual and automatic.

Deleon Guerrero attributed the leak to a failure to set the pump to automatic.

IPI executives reported to the casino commission that they have already addressed the issue of the leak last week as soon as they were informed of the matter by the commission.

CCC chair Juan Sablan told IPI executives to address the issue as it is a health hazard to both employees and guests.

IPI

From Page 1

going to enable us to assist our guests in the CNMI and expedite their processing through immigration and customs," Browne said.

The Reimbursable Services Agreement Program allows CBP to provide additional service inspections.

"This particular program… will allow us to provide for additional services for private aircraft [or] chartered aircraft with overtime funds that otherwise won't be available under our base budget," said Brian Humphrey, Field Operations director of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"We have entered a number of these reimbursable agreements at various airports where each stakeholder has a specific need for each location. Some want additional overtime service, some want additional flights. So we tweak these arrangements specific to what the stakeholder needs so that it will be moving forward nicely," he added.

IPI was prompted to avail of the program as the number of its guests grew before and after the casino opened at the Imperial Pacific Resort.

"We saw this need. When you come here and there are 1,500 or 2,000 people that arrive at the same time, and they wait for hours at the arrival area, it is very frustrating for our guests and for our leadership to accept," Browne said.

"We did a little bit of homework, filled up the application and, in the application, we let CBP know what we need. The CNMI [government], Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Customs knew what our needs were and they worked with us. With CBP, we had to go through an application process."

Humphrey said the program application goes through a two-step process. "We have a process at our headquarters where they convene a board of senior managers. They review all applications and then determine which ones can be supported or not and then the commissioner makes the final decision and signs the approval."

"The program is approved based on the merits of the proposal. If it's something that we can support, something that makes sense operationally and there is a good business plan behind it, then the proposal could be approved. Today we are here to sign, seal, and deliver. The signing is the second step or localized agreement, which spells out the specific services to be provided," Humphrey said.

The agreement does not state a specific duration or when the agreement will be extinguished.

According to Humphrey, the agreement is for an open-ended period—one that can be modified at any time based on a joint agreement.

"It could be altered, changed. The agreement is very flexible," he said.

IPI is the only company that currently has this agreement with the CBP in the CNMI.

The program is available to all guests of IPI and specifically targeted to those that arrive via private jets.

"Clearly, it is a lucrative and rapidly growing market. This agreement will allow us to service as they arrive. It doesn't spell out specific times because, in the general aviation environment, those aircrafts don't operate on a rigid schedule. When they are ready to fly, they provide notice and we provide service," Humphrey said.

"There were projections from IPI and the CNMI government that say they are expecting as much as a 300-percent increase in private aircraft operations here, so this agreement is specific to provide immigration processing services for those general aviation charter aircraft," he added.

According to Browne, the program will benefit all guests that arrive in the CNMI. When you take one person out of the line, everybody benefits. So as we expedite our VIP guests, it will also benefit the rest of the guests."

SHEFA awards over $900K in scholarships

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program has awarded over $900,000 worth of college scholarship funds for the current fall semester.

As of last week, SHEFA awarded funds to its 11th batch of scholars.

The SHEFA program received a total of 892 applications since the beginning of the fall semester in August.

As of yesterday, 48 individuals have been denied assistance, 570 have been approved, and 274 remain pending because of incomplete documents.

The total amount distributed by the SHEFA program amounted to $945,700 as of yesterday.

Its scholars consist of 306 off-island students and 586 on-island students. A total of 327 students are new applicants, 522 are ongoing applicants, and 43 students are returning applicants.

Students under the SHEFA program are either pursuing an associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or an advanced degree.

Some 419 students are pursuing associate degrees, 420 are pursuing bachelor's degrees, 41 are pursuing master's degrees, and 12 are pursuing doctoral degrees.

The deadline to submit all supporting documents to the SHEFA office is on Oct. 2, 2017. Failure to submit by the deadline will result in a denied application.

The first batch consisted of 177 recipients, the second consisted of 41 recipients, batch three consisted of 71 recipients, the fourth consisted 57 recipients, batch five consisted of 31 recipients, batch six consisted of 40 recipients, the seventh consisted of 17 recipients, batch eight consisted of 55 recipients, the ninth batch consisted of 50 recipients, the 10th consisted of 116 recipients, and batch 11 consisted of 15 recipients.

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RED CROSS DONATION

Bridge Capital LLC donates $5,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter in support of the chapter's annual Club 200 fundraiser. "We are grateful for the ongoing support from our friends at Bridge Capital," said board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho. "Bridge Capital has a long history of supporting our community and we are humbled by their desire to help the Red Cross." Tucker Baldwin, chief operations officer, and Jody Jordahl, chief investment officer of Bridge Capital, presented the check to 2017 Club 200 event co-chairs Patty T. Palacios and Nola Hix. Also in the photo are board member Bob Coldeen, Florence Sablan, and Red Cross staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GRAND VRIO RESORT
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Takahisa Yamamoto pays NMS for custodian services of vessel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Takahisa Yamamoto has paid Florida-based National Maritime Services, the former custodian of cargo ship M/V *Luta.*

With the payment, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated the scheduled Oct. 5, 2017, hearing on NMS' request to reinstitute contempt proceedings against Yamamoto.

Manglona said that NMS has withdrawn its motion for reinstitution of the contempt proceedings against Yamamoto, indicating that the company has now been paid in full.

NMS' counsel Sean E. Frink told the court on Wednesday that Yamamoto paid NMS that day, resolving the amounts NMS felt was its due for custodial services.

NMS had earlier asked the court to reinstate contempt proceedings against Yamamoto for failing to make monthly payments of at least $30,000 to NMS.

Alan Swimmer, president of NMS, had stated that payment to NMS in the amount of $112,994 is past due and payable as of Aug. 31, 2017.

Swimmer said Yamamoto made only one $30,000 payment after he and NMS settled and the court ordered the release of M/V *Luta* and put on hold the contempt proceedings against Yamamoto.

Frink had asked the court to order Yamamoto to appear in court to explain his conduct and why he should not be found in contempt and have further sanctions instituted.

Last March 8, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood temporarily placed on hold any contempt proceedings related to Yamamoto's non-payment of outstanding amounts owed NMS.

Tydingco-Gatewood said such contempt proceedings are held in abeyance in order to give Yamamoto the opportunity to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement between him and NMS.

Yamamoto has agreed to enter a stipulated judgment in the amount of $167,627 in favor of NMS.

Last Feb. 22, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter ordered the immediate release of M/V *Luta* to its owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, after Yamamoto reached the settlement agreement with NMS.

Following the settlement, Carter discharged the court's previous order to show cause against Yamamoto and relieved NMS of its duties as substitute custodian for M/V *Luta*.

Luta Mermaid LLC's members are Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Carter found the settlement deal acceptable.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship last Oct. 25. NMS was then appointed as substitute custodian of the vessel.

UNDER FUGITIVE DISENTITLEMENT DOCTRINE

High court dismisses appeal

The Supreme Court dismissed yesterday Antipas Rupurei's appeal of a Superior Court order directing him to pay restitution to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In 2008, the trial court sentenced Rupurei to six months of probation and to pay restitution to CUC for damaging a telephone pole. The amount of restitution, however, was to be determined at a later date. When the time came to determine the restitution amount, the court, unaware that CUC submitted a billing to the Office of the Public Defender, found CUC had not provided any documentation regarding the restitution amount and thereby dismissed the restitution claim against Rupurei. Subsequently, the Commonwealth asked the court to reconsider the dismissal arguing that CUC had in fact submitted proof. Finding good cause to reconsider the order dismissing the claim, the trial court scheduled a hearing.

At the scheduled hearing, however, the matter was continued to another date without any objections from Rupurei. By this time, Rupurei's probation was set to expire the following day. Soon after, Rupurei left the Commonwealth unannounced.

The trial court ordered Rupurei to pay restitution to CUC, and counsel appealed the trial court's order arguing, among other things, the court lacked jurisdiction to order restitution because Rupurei's probation had expired when the order was issued. Thereafter, the parties agreed to stay the appeal pending return of Rupurei to the Commonwealth. In 2016, because the appeal had languished for over seven years, the Supreme Court lifted the stay and ordered the parties to show cause why the appeal should not be dismissed under the fugitive disentitlement doctrine. The fugitive disentitlement doctrine provides that courts may dismiss a case against a defendant who has fled the jurisdiction to avoid judicial action.

The Supreme Court stated it had the "inherent authority to dismiss an appeal brought by a defendant who is considered a fugitive…[and it is] unwilling to waste time and resources exercising jurisdiction over litigants who will only comply with favorable rulings of the court." Because Rupurei agreed to continue the hearing; knew the restitution claim against him was pending at the time he left the Commonwealth; and to date, has not returned to the Commonwealth for more than eight years, the Supreme Court determined it was appropriate to dismiss his appeal under the fugitive disentitlement doctrine.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html.

For further information, contact the Supreme Court at 236-9800. ***(PR)***

Water outage in San Antonio, CK, Susupe, San Jose areas tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service outage tomorrow, Sept. 23, 2017, from 4am to 12pm in the San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and San Jose areas. Water personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be conducting leak detections and numerous tests on the water pressure around these areas to determine necessary changes to provide a more effective and efficient operation. ***(CUC)***

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2017 Nissan Rogue Sport retail price $22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $350.54 or $161.79 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,032.40.

COAST GUARD VISIT
U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Christine Torres Igisomar, third from left, and Lt. Jonathan Girot, third from right, made a courtesy visit to the House of Representatives where they met with Reps. Angel Demapan, Ivan Blanco, Greg Sablan Jr., and Edmund Villagomez. Torres and Girot are on island conducting recruitment and outreach to CNMI schools and government enforcement agencies. Igisomar is a proud daughter of the CNMI and always finds time to return and give back to her home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Waipahu High School principal visits Saipan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For many years, learning institutions have only gone about a specific way of engaging students in education and that is by following the standard nationwide high school curriculum. The Waipahu High School in Honolulu went the other way by implementing a new educational system.

Last Tuesday, the principal of Waipahu High School, Keith Hayashi, spoke before the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and shared a short presentation on the advancements made since he took over the school.

According to Hayashi, Waipahu prioritizes providing opportunities for students to pursue their passion or to enable them to find what that passion may be.

Waipahu provides separate academies that students can choose from in the beginning of their high school careers. These academies offer a wide range of possible career options.

With these academies, students are still able to complete the core requirements for graduation, but with a focus on a certain profession like education, nursing, medicine, technology, etc.

According to Hayashi's presentation, this system allows students to enter college confidently, with advance college knowledge in the course they eventually choose to pursue.

With this kind of educational system, students are able to choose a career path as early as by ninth grade.

Hayashi said that although his way has been effective for his students, adapting his system on Saipan should be discussed with the involvement of the local community. "It is important to have individuals who are dedicated to the education system," he said.

According to former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, who is also the founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program for Honolulu and Saipan, since Hayashi became the school's principal at Waipahu, "he has turned around that school…"

"He's probably the best principal the state has now in terms of innovation," added Hannemann.

Bank of Guam to consolidate Santa Cruz, Hagatna branches

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam management has announced the consolidation of its Santa Cruz branch with the Hagatna branch effective Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, 45 years to the day that Bank of Guam opened its doors to the temporary modular facility adjacent to the same site in 1972.

Board chair, president and chief executive officer Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "The consolidation allows us to have a more unified capital city presence, while continuing to upgrade our services throughout the island and region."

"We will be reaching out to our customers to assure them that the transition will be seamless and our Santa Cruz employees will remain with the Bank of Guam. We look forward to welcoming those who have frequented our Santa Cruz facility to whatever other branch they choose to use."

The Bank of Guam is celebrating 45 years of operation throughout its 23 branches in Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and San Francisco, California. ***(PR)***

DPW: Connection road on Route 36 to begin soon

With funds from the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Talofofo will soon become a second full-fledged link between the northern and southern parts of Saipan.

The project connects Windward Road in Talofofo to Chalan Kalabera in the northeastern part of Saipan. The project involves the construction of about 3.7 miles of an all-weather road on Route 36.

The Department of Public Works will be issuing the invitation to bid within the coming weeks.

"The project will begin at the end of the existing paved road just past the entrance to the Kingfisher Golf Course, pass through Kalabera Cave, and will end near the Bird Island lookout," said Public Works Secretary James Ada.

"The road improvement will also include wider travel lanes with bike lanes on each side, drainage, road signage, and concrete box culverts at the Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu crossings," Ada added.

Cyclists, joggers, tourists, and the greater community will soon enjoy a safer alternative commute to the northern part of the island.

Early last year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that the Technical Services Division under DPW completed over $10 million in islandwide upgrades.

"We've seen what an enormous impact roads have to improving our overall infrastructure. Several critical projects are ongoing, and this project is both exciting and beneficial for our community. …We expect to establish two new highways in the near future. As one of many road improvements, this project will alleviate traffic, which is a key priority. This will help our community not only make their daily commutes easier, but also provide a new scenic feature to our island that is also environmentally friendly," Torres said.

Last week, DPW highlighted the completion of six road projects and building rehabilitations. ***(PR)***

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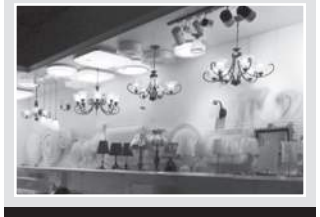
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS progress reports out

Saipan Southern High School will be releasing its students' progress reports today, Sept. 22, 2017, from 2pm to 4pm, in the school's classrooms. ***(PR)***

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at $25 and general admission at $10. Proceeds will be used for the club's community projects. Fourteen candidates will be competing. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. ***(PR)***

Free Service Academy Night on Tinian

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is hosting free Service Academy Night today on Tinian at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, from 5pm to 7pm, for those interested in learning more about the educational and career opportunities offered by the U.S. military academies, eligibility requirements, and how to apply. To RSVP or for more information, contact the congressional office at 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

Half-day at MHS

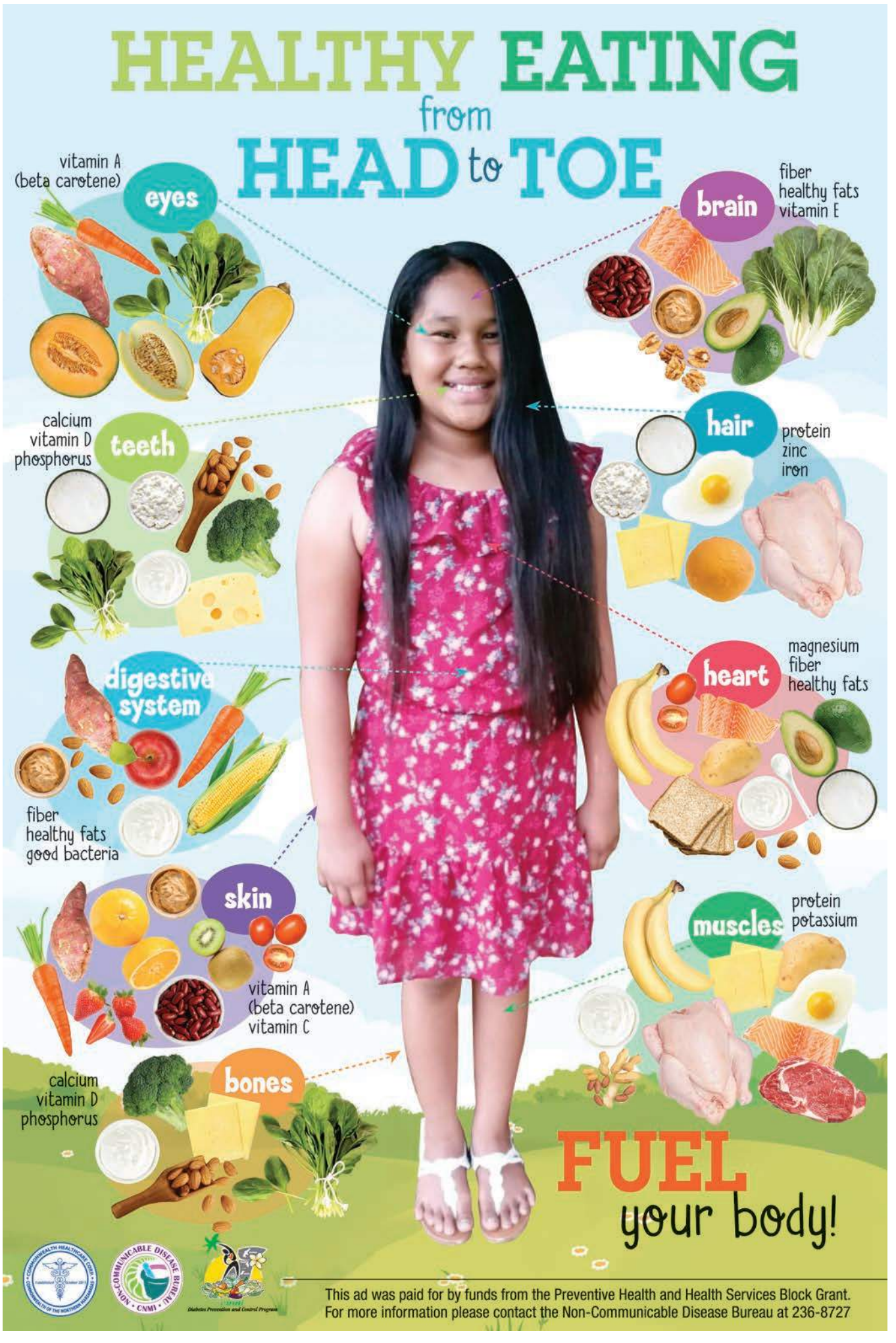
Today, Sept. 22, is half-day for all Marianas High School students. Dismissal is at 12:30pm. The first quarter mid-progress reports will be released from 4pm to 6pm at the E courtyard. ***(PR)***

FOA presents one-act comedies

The Friends of the Arts present *One-Act Comedy Night*, featuring comedies written by David Ives, Robert Anderson, and Shel Silverstein. They will be performed by Cherlyn Cabrera, Harold Easton, Neil Fama, Gios Gozon, Maria Mettao, Deirdre Rosete, Chuck Sayon, Emma Timmons, Rinisa Torres, Kristine Wolf, and Les Wolf. It will be directed by Harold Easton and staged at the Dolphin Theatre inside the Marianas High School campus, and will run tonight, Sept. 22, and on the evenings of Sept. 23, and 24 at 7pm. Tickets for non-FOA members is $8, while tickets for adult FOA members will cost $6 and students is $4. For tickets, call Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or by e-mail at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

EEO opportunity, civil rights updates at SHRM meeting

Glory Gervacio, director of the EEOC's Honolulu Office, along with Jenna Grambort and Sebastian Aloot from the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., will be presenting on updates and current issues on the topic "Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights" at a meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter today, Sept. 22, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle, from 8:30am to 2:30pm. This presentation is open to the public and includes the Hyatt lunch buffet and morning snacks and drinks at the cost of $40 for SHRM members and $50 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(PR)***



NEW PROMOTION

Congratulations to Michael James Reyes Camacho Jr. of Dandan, Saipan, who was recently promoted to Sergeant First Class, at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Camacho, the son of Mike SN and Evelyn R. Camacho of Dandan, has been serving the U. S. Army for 11 years and counting. *Lahen m*åmi*, gof magof ham nu hågu.* Well deserved *este na* promotion. *Kontinua i yomu dedikasion yan komiti gi che'cho-mu. En guaiya hao. Si,* Mom & Dad *yan i familia.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School campus minister and school counselor leads faculty, staff, and administration in singing at the school's annual Employee Spiritual Retreat held at the Maturana House of Prayer on Navy Hill.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MCS employees bond at annual spiritual retreat

Mount Carmel School faculty, staff, and administrators recently participated in a spiritual retreat at the Maturana House of Prayer on Navy Hill.

Held every year, the retreat gives the school's employees an opportunity to reflect on their vocation and to cultivate deeper connections with each other and their school.

The retreat was spearheaded by the school's campus minister and counselor, Vir Abueme, along with fellow counselor, Tobed Smith. Abueme and Smith both decided to focus the retreat on helping teachers learn more about each other. According to Smith, 'With our growing student population, our faculty have also grown and we have quite a few new teachers, so this will help us all get along better and work together better."

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero agrees. "It's important that as we grow as a school, we do not lose that sense of family that has always made us who we are. So it's great to see veteran teachers and new teachers get along so well at this retreat."

Deleon Guerrero also noted the significance of holding the retreat at Maturana, which is named after Margarita Maturana, one of the founding mothers of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz. "This place is sacred because it's the home of our school's founding mothers, and it's only fitting that we come back here and give back to them."

In addition to paying a nominal fee for use of the facility, the school also decided to have the food catered by Maturana instead of going with an outside caterer.

School principal Frances Taimanao was very happy with that decision. "Not only are we helping the sisters, but the food is also very healthy and very tasty. I couldn't be happier!"

Taimanao is also happy that all student retreats throughout the year will be held at Maturana, a tradition that dates back to Maturana's earliest days. "We are committed to helping the sisters who helped our school so much. And there's no better way than for our students to find spiritual renewal here at Maturana."

Students will begin their retreats in mid-October, which will continue throughout the school year. Each retreat is preceded by an opportunity to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which leads into a Mass that kicks off each retreat. The rest of the retreat includes prayer, reflection, and group-building activities. ***(MCS)***

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235-2030

Young people support Festival of Cultures

The Japanese community shares ethnic cuisine and the game *kadema* with children at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 16, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

MVA

The 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures continues for two more Saturdays this month, highlighted by the participation of young people.

On Sept. 16, the Chinese Association brought in dozens of young people from their school to perform songs and demonstrate martial arts. The Chamorro Association booth featured young members preparing attire made from coconut fronds and other natural material for their stage performance.

Six-year-old Marianas-*chan* Jebro Leon and his partner Aliya Pua shared the song and dance "Jet Plane" that they will perform later this week at the JATA Tourism Expo in Japan.

Korean language class students of Northern Marianas College donned traditional attire for the Korean community, and young people of other cultural communities participated throughout the evening.

The festival continues this Saturday, Sept. 23, with another lineup of entertainers: the Chamorro community at 5:30pm, the Japanese community with a *kendo* demonstration at 6pm, the Filipino community at 6:30pm, the Chinese community at 6:45pm, the

Continued on Next Page

Marnickka, right, and Mercilia Villagomez Teigita are adorned with Yapese floral leis at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 16, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

MVA

Northern Marianas College Korean language class students display traditional Korean attire at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 16, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

MVA

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old. Many times deaths and injuries can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

Child Passenger Safety Week

September 17 - 23, 2017

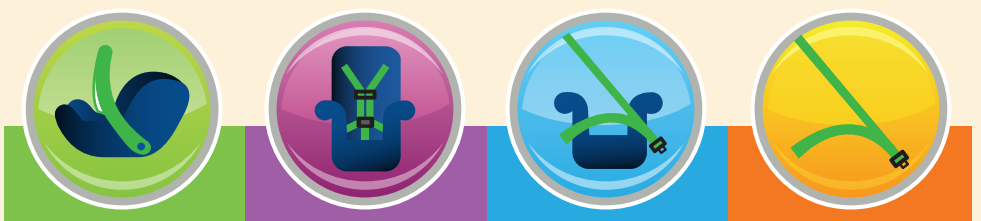
There are many car seat choices on the market. Use the information below to help you choose the type of car seat that best meets your child's needs.

Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.

Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.

To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.

Keep your child inthe back seat at least through age 12.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth – 12 Months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats:

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

1 – 3 Years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

1 – 3 Years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

4 – 7 Years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

BOOSTER SEAT

4 – 7 Years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8 – 12 Years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

SEAT BELT

8 – 12 Years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

National Seat Check and Family Fun Day

September 23, 2017 • 9:00am - 12 noon • Civic Center, Susupe

Car Seat Inspection Stations are located at:

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11 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER

1 **Prostate Cancer** is the 2nd Leading Cause of Cancer Death in Men

2 Nationally, 1 in 7 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer

3 **THE BIGGEST RISK FACTOR INCLUDE:**

4 **AGE**

About 2/3 of prostate cancer cases are found in men over age 65

5 **FAMILY HISTORY**

1 in 3 those with a father or brother who has developed prostate cancer have a 1 in 3 chance of developing it themselves

6 **RACE**

In the CNMI, it is indigenous men who rank highest in disease diagnoses

7 Men of average risk should start talking to their doctor about the pros and cons of screening at age 50

8 10 Prostate cancer screening takes **10 minutes**

9 Diets high in red meat and Fatty dairy products may increase prostate cancer risk

10 **Symptoms are** generally **unnoticeable** during early stages

11 There is a **100 PERCENT** five-year survival rate for men diagnosed in earliest stages

For more information in the CNMI, contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at (670) 236-8727/8.

Brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non Communicable Disease through 100% federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Korean community at 7pm, the Chuuk and Pohnpeian community at 7:45pm, the Hawaiian community at 8pm, the Bangladeshi community at 8:30pm, the Filipino community at 8:45pm, and the Refaluwasch community at 9pm.

Food sales, arts and crafts sales, photo booth, free roast pig, and hands-on cultural demonstrations at the various ethnic booths will be held from 5pm to 9pm.

"This year's festival is meeting our mark to create more cultural exchange, and we're happy to see that," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Whether its young people proudly wearing the traditional attire of other cultures or people being adventurous and trying new ethnic foods, it is a true celebration of mutual respect and appreciation."

Slated to participate in the festival are the communities of Korea, China, Japan, Chamorro, Carolinian, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Palau, Bangladesh, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and the Philippines.

Additional supporters are Office of the Governor, Indigenous Affairs Office, Carolinian Affairs Office, IT&E, Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC, Skywalker, PDM Promoters, Power 99, KKMP, and PDI.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Lynn Seman Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

Rexzon Calage, left, and Ethan Somol prepare to perform as part of the Chamorro community at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 16, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base. MVA

Children of the Saipan Awaodori Team represents the Japanese community at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 16, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base. The festival will be held every Saturday evening throughout September. MVA

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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WE MAY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TOTALLY DESTROY YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY, "ROCKET MAN"!..
HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO ENDURE THIS?
I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG LONG TIME...
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EDITORIAL

Recent disasters evidence not of end-times but of steely human resolve

If only these disturbing scenes of natural disasters' fury were clips from last week or the week before. But no, the hits just keep coming:

Brigades of volunteer rescuers continue to claw through the rubble of Mexico City and surrounding towns in desperate hope of stemming the growing death toll of Tuesday's powerful earthquake. The 7.1 magnitude killer rocked central Mexico just a week after an even bigger one struck to the south and just hours after the capital commemorated the anniversary of the 1985 quake that killed thousands.

As Mexico dealt with the earthshaking fallout of its unpredictable tectonic plates, residents of Puerto Rico and their Caribbean neighbors hunkered down in shelters to wait out the 155 mph winds of Hurricane Maria. The deadly Category 4 storm began its march across the U.S. territory early Wednesday after beating up a handful of nearby island nations.

The dire warnings around Maria have been eerie carbon copies of those delivered in recent weeks to Texas and Florida as predecessors Harvey and Irma pounded the regions and left many dead.

While at least Mexico also can begin to dig out, Hurricane Maria's still-unpredictable path leaves thousands on the front edge of uncertainty. The storm, the first of this magnitude to sweep through Puerto Rico since 1932, is all the more dangerous because it is also slow-moving.

Yes, it does feel like Mother Nature is just done with us. Even those at the always-sturdy National Hurricane Center acknowledge that they are "starting to run out of adjectives." Forecaster Michael Brennan summed it up simply as "horrifying."

As tempting as it is to try to create some overarching narrative out of all this churning of natural violence, scientists remind us of the facts: We are in hurricane season. Mexico is earthquake-prone. Nature is unpredictable.

That's little solace amid the pileup of hurricane and earthquake devastation, not to mention the record-setting wildfires that have burned up more than 12,500 square miles of western America.

But the silver lining in this chaos is that time and time again, nature's wrath is answered by steely human resolve.

You see it in southeast Texas, where _ weeks after Hurricane Harvey is no longer at the top of the news _ residents and volunteers from all over the state and nation work tirelessly to rebuild lives.

In Mexico, that spirit is fueling the makeshift bucket brigades that pass along not water but boulders and con-

See RECENT on Next Page

Want your local economy to grow? Start embracing immigrants

By KATE BRICK
Special to McClatchy

Kate Brick is the director of state and local initiatives at New American Economy, a bipartisan coalition of more than 500 mayors and business leaders who support immigration reform.

All eyes are on Washington as the fate of nearly 800,000 undocumented young people brought here as children dominates the debate over America's broken immigration system. But while many focus attention on the nation's capital, important discussion is happening this week in New York. As the UN General Assembly meets, mayors from around the United States _ and the world _ are gathering to discuss how cities and towns of all sizes and political stripes are competing to attract, welcome and integrate immigrants. The reason for their leadership? While D.C. politicians debate the value of immigration, local communities see the benefits firsthand.

It comes down to economics. In addition to adding diversity and cultural vibrancy, immigrants are driving economic growth and revitalization across the country.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in America's Rust Belt. Immigrants are offsetting decades of population decline. They're contributing millions of dollars to the tax base. They're infusing new life into economic corridors by opening storefronts and bolstering consumer spending, and they're reviving the housing market.

Take Dayton, Ohio. With a 59 percent increase in its immigrant population between 2009 and 2013, Dayton reversed three decades of population decline. In fact, if Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo had each attracted immigrants at the same overall rate as Dayton, they would have reversed their population decline over the same period. Look at Buffalo, too. Immigrants have helped create or preserve over 3,000 local manufacturing jobs _ jobs that would have vanished had it not been for the labor force the immigrant community helped bolster. Immigrants also fill critical gaps in fields like STEM and health care, where communities are not only facing shortages, but having workers in these industries creates additional jobs for people born here.

It's not just the Rust Belt, either. In Kansas City, immigrants pay $1 billion in taxes and hold $2.5 billion in spending power _ dollars that go back into the local economy. In San Jose, Calif., immigrants account for more than half of all entrepreneurs in the city. The examples extend from coast to coast. Running the gamut from Main Street business owners to international students, immigrants and their families are breathing new life into cities everywhere.

This is why in 2012, the city that built the Gateway Arch set out to become a new kind of gateway. By 2020, St. Louis wants to be the fastest-growing destination for the foreign-born.

Not to be outdone, Cincinnati recently vowed to become the "most immigrant-friendly city in the country," launching a 21-point plan to do it. Last year, Louisville released the Global Louisville Action Plan _ the culmination of a joint business and mayor's office initiative tasked with attracting, retaining and increasing the foreign-born population and workforce.

Recognizing the economic potential, there are now more than 60 communities actively strategizing on how to create more attractive and welcoming environments for immigrants. There are more than 25 mayoral offices whose mission is immigrant inclusion and integration. They're using immigrant integration plans like those in Pittsburgh, Atlanta and San Jose as blueprints for what they can do to maximize the economic contributions of immigrants and create an environment where all residents can succeed.

And it's not just mayor's offices that see the growth opportunity. The business community is joining _ and even leading _ these efforts as well. Chambers of commerce in Des Moines, Lancaster, Tulsa, and San Diego are just a few examples where local business leaders are thinking big on immigration and economic development.

Building on this effort, last week 25 communities won recognition of their public-private commitment to immigrant integration as part of the Gateways for Growth Challenge run by New American Economy and Welcoming America. Awardees range from Fort Wayne, Indiana and Missoula, Montana to Memphis, Tennessee and Dallas, Texas _ anchoring regions large and small, rural and urban, in red, blue, and purple states alike. Together, these places have one thing in common: They understand their future depends on attracting the best, brightest and hardest-working, and making the American Dream attainable for everyone.

Whatever

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It's time for another installment about my attempts to learn Mandarin Chinese. This is a never-ending series. That's because it's a never-ending quest.

I'm an "intermediate" student. I was an intermediate student four years ago. I'll be an intermediate student four years from now. My parents taught me that I should strive for consistency. Is this what they had in mind?

Anyway, I eventually decided I'd rather have a solid grasp of the basic stuff than a fuzzy grasp of a larger scope.

It never ceases to amaze me how the basic stuff can hide in plain sight. Textbook language and street language are two different species.

I hired a tutor to help me revisit the most practical and basic of things. She is married to an airline crew member and she's got an appreciation for the practical side of communications and travel. Practicality, not fashion, is the goal here.

The big picture here isn't the actual Chinese translations. I'll spare you those details. The big picture is that we found these terms to be important and yet they went overlooked (by me) for so long. I'd want to know these terms in just about any language:

1) "McDonald's"

One audio course I took taught the term "reindeer milk" in Chinese. That stuck in my head, but darned if I could ever remember, if in fact I ever knew to begin with, how to say "McDonald's."

According to an Aug. 8 article in *USA Today*, there are currently 2,500 McDonald's in China. This number is expected to increase to 4,500 by the year 2022. The worldwide tally stands at about 37,000.

I've had Chinese colleagues on Saipan, in Guam, and elsewhere specifically request McDonald's when it was time to eat. It's not just an American thing. For my colleagues and I, it's a good word to know.

2) "KFC"

KFC has even more restaurants than McDonald's does in China. According to a company website there are over 5,000 KFC restaurants in China.

3) "Whatever"

This word enjoyed favor as part of California's "Valley Girl" lingo in the 1980s. The "valley" refers to a sprawling, concrete-and-freeway expanse of the San Fernando Valley in the Los Angeles area.

"Whatever" can do doubly duty with nearly opposite meanings. In one sense it can be a term of dismissal. In another sense it can be a term granting assent, as in, "Whatever you want to do is OK with me."

It's the latter meaning that I'm interested in here. Here's a random slice of life from my little corner of the world:

"Dude, what do you want to eat?"
"Whatever."
"Is KFC all right?"
"Sure."
"When do you want to go?"
"Whenever."
"Cool. Let's make it two-o'clock."
"OK."

This is probably about how 80 percent of my conversations go. Life has proven to be just a bigger version of high school. Like, totally, for sure.

4) "I emphatically do not care about politics"

I've found myself in a few situations internationally where an American in the group wants to stir up political discussions. Being able to immediately dissociate myself from that behavior is an important skill.

5) "None of your business"

I haven't field tested this one yet, and I'd be careful where I use it, but I like having it in my hip pocket anyway. I'd probably employ a more diplomatic spin, such as "I don't understand why this matter is your concern."

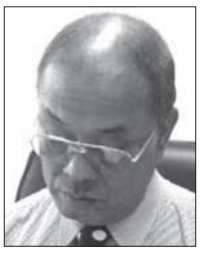
■■■

Those are the words and phrases the tutor taught me during our first session. Yeah, I'm still stuck at the intermediate level, but, well, whatever.

Reviewing performance

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



As we head into the 40th year of self-government, let's take a quick glimpse at our performance, specifically the strengthening of our democratic institutions over the last four decades. I have been around to see most major events unfold throughout the period. It included the historic establishment of our constitutional government in 1978.

I've stood by the shifting sands of leadership change since then. I've met politicians who have sailed through the lagoon, leaving behind a legacy of either dignity or humiliation. Along the way, I also noticed having outlasted a lot of political careers that have sailed into the sunset forever. I'm still here, writing!

Yep! I have stepped on toes for legitimate reasons and I'm not ready yet to step aside in silence. I'm a believer in what Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Must speak up with a sense of purpose and civility.

Anyway, let's compare notes for discussion purposes. We've begun the proverbial thousand-mile journey in self-government. It's a very slow process in a democracy.

History: The CNMI witnessed the installation of its non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009 when Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili) took his seat. The CNMI joined other territories with their delegates like Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. Kilili's a charismatic leader who shines even more as a humble people person. Outstanding!

Misperception: Warp the perception that the CNMI is an independent country when discussing self-government. Nah! See Covenant Section 101 where we surrendered sovereignty. Effectively, we came under the huge umbrella of our national government or the "feds." Let's explore the umpteen programs available in D.C. so we begin a journey in partnership hence.

Lost: We once had control over immigration. We subsequently lost it, an important component in any meaningful effort to expand jobs and wealth creation. It's now a dilemma that requires a big smile from Congress. Unfortunately, nobody's smiling on Capitol Hill.

Fiscal: Does anybody know the financial posture of the NMI, e.g., old debts, current deficit, obligations, and revenue generation? Isn't there blind acceptance of suspect tidings of a surplus? If we have a combined deficit of over a billion dollars, how is it possible that there's a surplus? It's another misperception that fails common sense.

How does this assertion fly against the tide of some 13,000 employees still earning poverty income level and below? In the midst of this negligence, legislators gave themselves a hefty 80-percent salary increase even in violation of pertinent constitutional provision. Again, revisit the same basic document with extra effort to understand it.

Ooops! Now politicos are scrambling to pacify civil servants with ill-conceived increases, clueless of its financial implications. But then someone once said that in politics "stupidity is not a handicap." So it must be a forte!

How do you measure surplus versus a certain report asserting that for every dollar that we make we owe two dollars? Isn't this a tale of the suspect fiscal posture of the CNMI? How do you plan to reconcile this deficiency? With some 4,000 employees we ask: how many of these jobs are political payoffs versus real government functions? Does it matter to taxpayers or "we the people"?

Moreover, pertinent constitutional provision says that expenditure of all public funds requires legislative appropriation. It's the sole most vital authority of the House of Representatives. Yet none ever lifted a finger to demand the return of the $400,000 engineered by Biktot Hokog for his family's business on Rota. Or is this negligence another instance of reading deficiency?

There are other issues we've overlooked, like the quality of healthcare at CHC. Has CHC become the Department of Medi-

See REVIEWING on Page 18

RECENT

From Page 14

crete as they seek to find survivors amid scores of collapsed schools and high rises.

And in Puerto Rico, still in the midst of a storm that its governor says has decimated parts of the island, also comes a message of perseverance. "Our only focus right now should be to make sure we save lives," said Ricardo Rossello. "But we are going to rebuild."

Those of us lucky enough to be spared from this summer of destruction can do more than marvel at the responses of courage and resolve. Let us each lend a hand in whatever way we best can.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is it intrusion?

When the Legislature approved the rezoning of certain areas, over the rules and procedures observed by the zoning board, isn't the Legislature disregarding protocol in exerting its power?

Of course, the Legislature is the lawmaking body and can make changes in the law as well as make laws, but the rules and procedures are codified as law. It behooves the current Legislature to abide by the law, which the previous legislature enacted. That's a fact.

The Legislature has the lawmaking authority, while the Executive Branch enforces those laws passed by the Legislature. It's a constitutional provision. But isn't the approval of the rezoning of the San Roque area to allow a hotel to be built there over-stepping or ignorance and disrespect of codified laws, rules and procedures established by the enforcing body of the government?

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumuro complains that the Legislature is ignoring codified laws, rules, and procedures regarding the zoning and rezoning of areas. According to a recent news report, Ogumuro complained to the Saipan legislative delegation that the Legislature has bypassed codified laws and procedures in the approval of the rezoning of an area in San Roque, Chalan Kiya, as well as areas along Beach Road. Ogumuro notes that the governing laws on zoning are 7242 and 7251 of 2 CMC. With all due respect, the zoning board holds public hearing on applications for rezoning of areas to put up buildings, etc., and the public hearing is the proper place to start rezoning proposals.

Why should the Legislature heed the codified zoning laws as observed by the zoning board? Well, there is the doctrine of separation of powers, which governs the operation of the three branches of government. The Legislature legislates, the Executive Branch enforces, and the Judiciary judges. This is true all the time.

Is the zoning board a legitimate entity? Of course it is. It starts with the CNMI Constitution and followed the laws that defines the creation of that board. The Constitution allows a board to exist per Section 15. Section 21 says, in essence, that members of a board shall be independent and shall operate outside the managerial responsibility of the regular governmental departments and their subordinate agencies. It should be common courtesy then for the Legislature to consult the affected offices in the Executive Branch where expertise exist for professional opinions and recommendation and not intrude into the operations of departments and subordinate offices of the two other branches.

Was it brash political intrusion? Yes, it was. Submit your re-zoning proposal to the zoning board, and attend the board's public hearing to persuade and to explain yourself, your goals, objectives and your dream in wanting a rezoning. Avoid the intrusion with common courtesy, and it should work just fine.

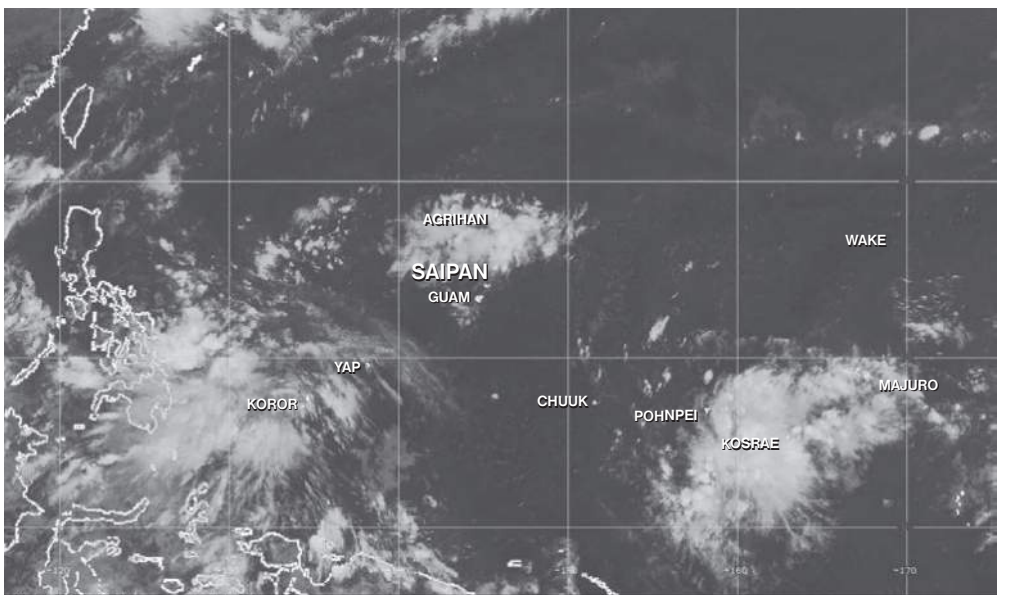
Rudolfo M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There is an upper low to the west of the Marianas and the remnants of a disturbance as well. These features have triggered some showers and thunderstorms early this morning. The upper low is expected to remain nearby for the next few days, but as surface ridging moves in for later today into Friday, drier air is expected and just some isolated showers are anticipated. Then another trough is expected, but the bulk of the rain looks to remain to the south at this time at least for Saturday. If later guidance maintains this trend, then precip chances can be lowered with later forecasts. Seas will likely remain in the 3 to 5 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	82° / 54°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Sunny	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	79° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°
Tokyo	Showers	75° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	84° / 64°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.34
8:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
3:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.42
9:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:35 am	7:46 pm	-
Saturday	8:26 am	8:28 pm	-
Sunday	9:16 am	9:09 pm	-
Monday	10:05 am	9:52 pm	-
Tuesday	10:54 am	10:36 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Shelly Scott
JEM Company, Ltd.
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VOLUNTEERS

Val Cruz
Liza Cruz
Lupe Camacho
Keena Leon Guerrero
Naomi Camacho
Katie Delos Reyes
Riya Nathrani
Angel Cruz
Daniel Ogomuro
Daniel Kaipat
Delfin Camacho
Myla Capilitan
Romolo Orsini
Monique Sablan
Jose Quan
Lydia Maniacop
Mikki Kautz

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-001

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 & 2018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 & 2018. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than November 17, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2018 (FY17) & 2019 (FY18). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2017 & 2018 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-001, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 & 2018**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-002

KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer–via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

REVIEWING
From Page 15

cal Referral?

Espaldon: The fate of Guam Sen. James Espaldon is in the hands of his colleagues. The Guam Legislature's Ethics and Standards investigative committee recommended this week that he be officially censured, stripped of his leadership positions for the remainder of the Guam legislative term..."

KUAM News reports that the committee "finds that General Pacific Services Marianas, Inc. and Robert and Amelia Toelkes paid for Sen. Espaldon's meals, airfare, and other travel expenses in at least one trip to Korea and several trips to Saipan during his tenure, and that Sen. Espaldon engaged in these actions at least in part for his own personal gain by receiving something of value..." Saipan Rep. Ed Propst hurled that the issue is investigated.

An interesting result that brings into the forefront is the role that Robert and Amelia Toelkes played in the deal slammed into paralysis by Gov. Ralph Torres. I understand that the couple serves as alleged consultants for Lt. Gov. Biktot Hokog. Why am I not surprised at all?

Debunked: A Japanese blogger did online research whether Amelia Earhart was captured by the Japanese Imperial Army and brought to Saipan in 1937. He debunked it, saying it never happened. A source emailed the following:

"Just beyond the wharf, in the harbor, is a Japanese military vessel identified as the *Koshu Maru*. The documentary suggests that after this picture was taken, Earhart and Noonan were arrested and taken aboard the *Koshu Maru* and that a barge alongside contained the remains of their Lockheed Electra airplane. It's supposed to head to Saipan.

"However, in 1982 a Japanese author and journalist, Fukiko Aoki, published a book in Japanese, *Looking for Amelia.* She found a surviving crewmember of the *Koshu Maru*, a telegraphist named Lt. Sachinao Kouzu.

"He told her that, like other Japanese ships in the western Pacific, they were told that Earhart had disappeared while over the ocean and were alerted to look out for any sign of the airplane and, if they did, seek to rescue Earhart and Noonan. After a few days, said Kouzo, the alert was dropped. At no time did anyone on *Koshu Maru* set eyes on the Americans, dead or alive."

Department of Labor
CNMI-OSHA "FREE" On-Site Consultation Services:

Are you an employer who wants to protect your employees' safety and health, but who needs some expert assistance? Are you concerned that your business cannot afford the cost of professional help?

Call now! Good News in an Attractive Package: The Price is right!

Free – services are provided are free and supported by Federal funds.

Voluntary – Consultation services are voluntary, an employer must request service and agree to certain obligations, primarily that the employer agrees to correct all hazards found during the consultation visit within an agreed-upon time frame.

Smaller Business – Specifically designed for small and medium sized business – not more than 250 employees.

No Penalty – No citations are issued for hazards identified by the consultant, and no penalties are ever proposed

Confidentiality – Public disclosure & enforcement disclosure (consultation result not publicized or shared with OSHA enforcement). Except in situations where imminent danger or serious hazards are not corrected as agreed upon.

Full Service Consultation – Full service consultation covers all working conditions and includes assistance in establishing effective workplace safety and health programs, also may include training and education for you, supervisors, and your other employees.

Benefits – First and foremost, your increased understanding of workplace hazards and remedies will enable you to protect your workers from injury and illness.

Consultation in Action: Five (5) Steps to success

1) Requesting Assistance – Consultation starts with your request which may be telephone call, a letter, personal contact to CNMI-OSHA Office or email.
2) The opening conference
3) The Walkthrough
4) The closing conference
5) Hazard Correction After the Visit

Consultation will "NOT":

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of federal or states OSHA standard
- Guarantee that any workplace will "pass" a federal or state OSHA INSPECTIONS

When you request consultation service, by the completion of the process you will receive:

- An appraisal of all mechanical and environmental hazards and physical work practices;
- An appraisal of the present job safety and health program or the establishment of one;
- A conference to review findings;
- A written report of recommendations and agreements
- Training and assistance with implementing recommendations
- Follow-up by the consultant to ensure that any required corrections have been made

For more information please contact CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program at
Tel: No. 664-3156/3157, Cell: No. 287-7531
or visit our office
At Capitol Hill, 1338 Ascension Dr.
Ask for
Elaine Pangelinan
Joey Pangelinan
Or, Mariana Coates

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53 • Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp

RFP17 – RED001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 27, 2017

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

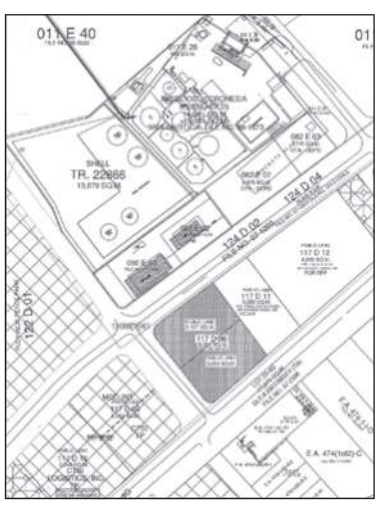
- Lot No. 117 D 06, containing an area approximately 6,221 square meters, more or less, in Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **"RFP17-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN"**. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on September 29, 2017 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp



Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

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RFP17 – RED002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 27, 2017

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN TANAPAG, SAIPAN"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

- Lot No. 002 B 24, containing an area approximately 1,500 square meters, more or less, in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **"RFP17-RED002 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN TANAPAG, SAIPAN"**. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on September 29, 2017 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

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RFP17 – RED003
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 27, 2017

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN SONGSONG, ROTA"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

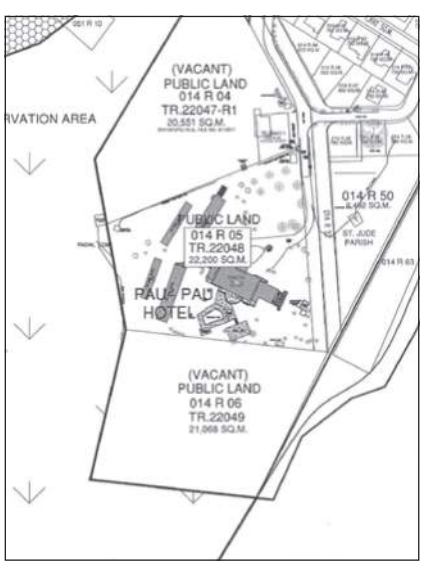
- Lot No. 014 R 05, containing an area approximately 22,200 square meters, more or less, in Songsong, Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, as is.
- Lot No. 014 R 06, containing an area approximately 21,068 square meters, more or less, in Songsong, Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **"RFP17-RED003 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN SONGSONG, ROTA"**. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on September 29, 2017 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp



Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

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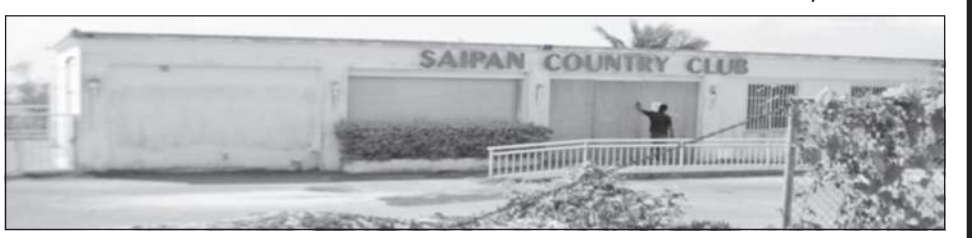
RFP17 – RED004
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 27, 2017

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CHALAN KIYA, SAIPAN"



Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of commercial leasing and developing the following public land:

- Lot 1794NEW, containing an area of approximately 29,899 square meters, more or less, in Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If a hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will be assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail. The request must reference **"RFP17-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CHALAN KIYA, SAIPAN"**. Requests should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on September 29, 2017 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number: (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, October 20, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK CLERK
Minimum of three (3) months to one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience required. Fluency in Korean, Russian and/or Japanese languages is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(4) ROOM ATTENDANT – Full Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ROOM ATTENDANT – Part Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, October 6, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LITERARY NOOK

Four Fake News Friday sonnets

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TGIF FAKE NEWS DAY, Sonnet No. 1

well folks, today is another "real" Fake News Friday
bad news and sad news readers have made a request
so this poet conjures up a just a few little white lies
to soothe their nerves and accommodate that behest
no typhoons on the way, all the beaches are clean
got a raise, taxes paid, BBQ at home, sipping a beer
one kid won a soccer match, one listed by the dean
kumpaire gave us all tee shirts that say NO FEAR
tourists keep coming despite North Korean loud mouth
the CNMI Congress is now a unicameral legislature
North Korea allows family members visits from the South
Doubting Thomas skeptics say all fake news for sure
that's it for Fake News Friday you know what I mean
there's more on the horizon that remains to be seen

TGIF FAKE NEWS DAY, Sonnet No. 2

well it's that time again for the so called "lying media"
to fill readers with believable untruths for another day
from Putin's press and some North Korean encyclopedia
for a slow news weekend while outdoors we all play
in Washington D.C. our capitol around the tidal basin

See FOUR on Next Page

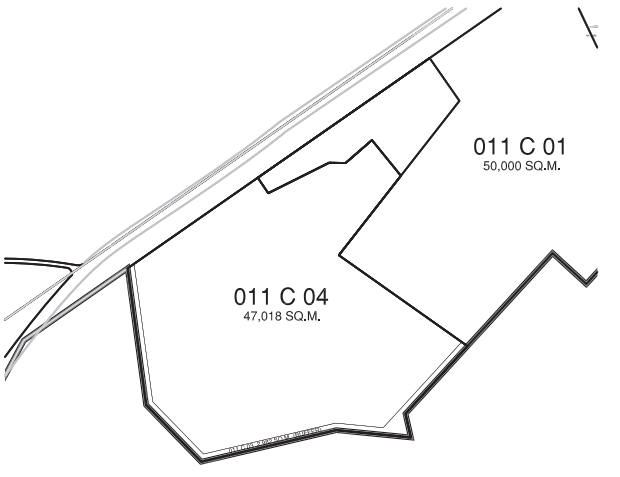
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp

RFP17 – RED005
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 27, 2017

"QUARRY OPERATOR ON PUBLIC LANDS – LOT NUMBER 011 C 04 – AS MATUIS, SAIPAN"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified quarry operators for the purpose of operating a commercial rock quarry on the following public lands:

- Lot No. 011 C 04, containing an area of approximately 47,018 square meters, more or less, in As Matuis, Saipan



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Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number: (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

The Department Public Lands reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the Department of Public Lands.

MARIANNE CONCEPCION-TEREGEYO
Secretary
Department of Public Lands

FOUR

From Page 20

there's a bathtub rubber duck floating demonstration
with little floating rubber frogs they are all chasing
a bipartisan Congress gives out the same explanation
more fake news is broadcast but fun to think it is true
scientists say we are winning a war on global warming
decreasing our carbon footprint less air pollution too
evidence that glaciers in polar places have new ice forming
more shrimp in the Gulf, more tuna in the Pacific ocean
cause cheers and jeers around Fake News Friday commotion

TGIF FAKE NEWS DAY, Sonnet No. 3

I can't wait to wake up this Saturday morning to find
I won a million dollar lottery and the office football pool
yes reality and gold have struck, I haven't lost my mind
tv says we're building an Olympic size swimming pool
the roads and leaky water system have all been repaired
typhoon proof power poles installed on every island
daily complainers and FB trolls are no longer 'Shared'
everyone who has lost money gambling is now smilin
dogs and hogs no longer leave duty drops on beaches
reef fish are in abundance there is no dynamite in use
watermelons are sweeter lemons grow big as peaches
people learn recycling and proper disposal of refuse
there's much more Fake News we haven't made a dent
enough for a six page Monday morning supplement

TGIF FAKE NEWS DAY, Sonnet No. 4

another Fake News Friday and there are lots of reports
Garapan will have a six story garage for parking spaces
all beer manufacturers will sell only six packs of quarts
with a 20% discount for those who buy only by cases
an overhead monorail will run from the north to south
free college tuition in the US and here will be the rule
politicians will learn how and when to close their mouth
hand held PCs will be available for students at school
personal taxes have doubled and so have hourly wages
labor problems solved legal workers here for construction
building projects progress as planned in reasonable stages
abandoned cars and buildings will meet with destruction
well that completes this Fake News Friday sonnet quartet
there'll be no more, that's a big lie too, on that you can bet

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

It is the policy of the State Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity. Applications shall be evaluated regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability, or national origin.

Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

POSITION/TITLE: **Assistant Director of Finance**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: **PSS 2017-133**
OPENING DATE: September 8, 2017 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
SALARY: PAY LEVEL: 34 STEP(S):**01-12; $27,437.44 - $46,920.20 Per Annum**
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: PSS, Finance Office

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounting, or related field of study, plus six (6) years work experience

Applicants must also have knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- Knowledge of the CNMI laws and regulations including laws and regulation relating to governmental finance, administration, and personnel.
- Knowledge of budget and accounting requirements relating to federal education programs.
- Knowledge of JDE/IBM computer applications.
- Ability to communicate and build consensus with and among stakeholders, including legislature, central and school level management, staff, representatives of other CNMI agencies.
- Experience in working with short and long range planning.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION:

1. COMPLETED PSS EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM;
2. COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE;
3. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS *(SEALED) MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE HR OFFICE FROM THE ACCREDITED INSTITUTION AND/OR THE NATIONAL ASSSOCIATION OF CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES (NACES);*
4. POLICE CLEARANCE FROM THE MOST RECENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE *(WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS);*
5. VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
6. MEDICAL CLEARANCE *(ONLY REQUIRED UPON OFFER FOR EMPLOYMENT).*

OTHER DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUESTED AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION (IF THE PSS DETERMINES IT TO BE APPLICABLE):

1. CERTIFICATE/LICENSE (Teaching, CPA, Bar, SPHR, etc.)
2. RESUME
3. PRAXIS SCORES
4. TRAFFICE CLEARANCE

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT CAPITOL HILL, BUILDING 1202, ISLETA COURT, SAIPAN or VIA EMAIL TO: LUCRETIA BORJA AT LUCRETIA.BORJA@CNMIPSS.ORG or MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, P.O. BOX 501370CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL. NOS. (670) 237-3052, 3064, or 3079.

YOUR APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
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Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

POSITION/TITLE: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (Re-Announcement II)**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: **PSS-2016-212**
OPENING DATE: February 3, 2017 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
SALARY: PAY LEVEL: **UNGRADED** STEP(S): **UNGRADED; $50,000.00 - $70,000.00 PER ANNUM**
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounting, or related field of study, plus five (5) years work experience and can either hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR MA degree in Business Administration, Finance and Accounting or related field of study, plus five (5) years related work experience, including three (3) years in Public Auditing or Government Auditing.

Applicants must also have knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- In-depth knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principals, including governmental accounting, budgetary, and cost accounting.
- Knowledge in school finance.
- Knowledge of the CNMI laws and regulations including laws and regulation relating to governmental finance, administration, and personnel.
- Knowledge of budget and accounting requirements relating to federal education programs.
- Knowledge of JDE/IBM computer applications.
- Ability to communicate and build consensus with and among stakeholders, including legislature, central and school level management, staff, representatives of other CNMI agencies.
- Experience in working with short and long range planning.
- Experience in working with CNMI and federal legislative entities.
- Experience in working with policy setting bodies.
- Experience in working with government or public auditing.

Preferred a candidate holding a CPA designation issued by any State of the United States, its territory or possession.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION:

1. COMPLETED PSS EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM;
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4. POLICE CLEARANCE FROM THE MOST RECENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE *(WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS);*
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
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PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE

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Applicants for this position must be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

POSITION/TITLE: **Comptroller**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: **PSS-2017-131**
OPENING DATE: September 22, 2017 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
SALARY: PL – Ungraded; Step(s) Ungraded; **$50,000.00** Per Annum
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **PSS, Finance Office**

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting from an accredited college or university or certified equivalent
- Five (5) years of work experience in accounting with at least one year of supervisory/management experience plus two (2) years of government auditing experience with two (2) years of work experience using JD Edwards Financial and Accounting software.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION:

1. COMPLETED PSS EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM;
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4. POLICE CLEARANCE *FROM THE MOST RECENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE (WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS);*
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OTHER DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUESTED AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION (IF THE PSS DETERMINES IT TO BE APPLICABLE):

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YOUR APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT.

Asia

Bangladesh truck carrying Rohingya Muslim aid crashes; 9 die

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—A truck filled with aid for Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh veered off a road and fell into a ditch Thursday morning, killing at least nine aid workers, hours after another aid shipment in the refugees' violence-wracked home state in Myanmar was attacked by a Buddhist mob.

Both shipments were from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Aid groups face different challenges on either side of the border: An influx of more than 420,000 refugees in less than a month in Bangladesh, and in Myanmar, government resistance and angry allegations from majority Buddhists that international organizations are favoring the long-persecuted Rohingya minority.

A Bangladeshi medical administrator, Aung Swi Prue, said six people died instantly in the truck crash near the border in southeastern Bandarban district. Three people died after reaching a hospital, and 10 others were injured and are receiving treatment.

ICRC spokeswoman Misada Saif said all of those killed were Bangladeshi workers hired to distribute food packages to 500 Rohingya families.

Saif said the truck belongs to the ICRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and was operated by a supplier who has been working for the two agencies for last couple of weeks. She said agency officials are "very shocked and sad."

"Our thoughts are with the families of the dead. They were there to help the people who desperately need help," she said.

The Rohingya exodus began Aug. 25, after Rohingya insurgent attacks on police set off a military crackdown. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands of homes have been burned. The government has blamed the Rohingya, even saying they set fire to their own homes, but the U.N. and others accuse it of ethnic cleansing.

Most refugees have ended up in camps in the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar, which already had hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who had fled prior rounds of violence. Bandarban is a neighboring district where thousands of Rohingya also have fled.

The violence in Myanmar has occurred just across the border in Rakhine state, where police said a Buddhist mob threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at officers Wednesday night as they tried to block Red Cross supplies from being loaded onto a boat. The vessel was headed to an area where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims have chased from their homes. No injuries were reported and police detained eight of the attackers.

Dozens of people arrived at a jetty in the Rakhine state capital, Sittwe, as a boat was being loaded bottled water, blankets, mosquito nets, food and other supplies. As the crowd swelled to 300, they started throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the officers, who responded by firing into the air, said police officer Phyo Wai Kyaw.

The government of the predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million said police and several monks showed up to try to defuse tensions.

Though Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, told diplomats this week humanitarian assistance was being sent to those who remain in northern Rakhine, the government has blocked all U.N. assistance to the area, granting access to only the Red Cross.

Buddhists in Rakhine have accused international aid groups of favoring Rohingya.

"We are explaining to the community members who approached the boats about the activities of the Red Cross," said Maria Cecilia Goin, a communications officer at the ICRC in Yangon.

"It's important for them to understand that we are working in neutral and impartial way," she said, adding that the work is being done "with full transparency with the Myanmar authorities."

Seoul to resume aid to N. Korea but doesn't set date

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Thursday decided to resume humanitarian aid to North Korea to help children and pregnant women, but didn't determine when to provide the $8 million worth of assistance amid tensions created by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.

Still, the decision is ensured to trigger heated political debates as many South Koreans have expressed concerns that the aid resumption would distract from efforts to step up sanctions and pressure against the North over its rapidly expanding nuclear weapons program.

South Korea suspended humanitarian aid to North Korea after the country conducted its fourth nuclear test in January 2016. The country's new liberal President Moon Jae-in, who took office in May, has maintained that the issue of providing humanitarian aid to North Korea should be handled independently from political circumstances.

After a meeting between ministries and civilian experts, the government decided to support programs by the United Nations Children's Fund and the U.N. World Food Program for providing food and medicines to North Korean children and pregnant women, the Unification Ministry said.

The ministry said the assistance doesn't include cash and there's "realistically no possibility" that the North could use it to support its military. The government will decide when to provide the aid considering the state of relations between the rival Koreas, the ministry said. The U.N. assesses that 18 million of the 25 million North Koreans are experiencing varying levels of food shortages and the country also suffers from high child and maternal mortality rates.

Son Kum-ju, a lawmaker and spokesman of the opposition People's Party, said the decision to resume aid was badly timed because it risks sending mixed signals to the international community that's trying to tighten the screws on Pyongyang.

"The international community is strengthening sanctions and pressure against North Korea and even Moon is in the United States to strengthen international coordination against the North Korean problem," said Son. "If our government contradicts itself and beats to a different beat, it won't be able to gain the approval of its own people, let alone other countries."

The last time South Korea provided humanitarian aid to North Korea through an international agency was in December 2015, when it gave $800,000 to the U.N. Population Fund project to evaluate North Korean public health conditions.

Since its fourth nuclear test a month later, North Korea has conducted two more nuclear tests and flight-tested a slew of new missile systems, including developmental ICBMs that could potentially reach deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected. The North also flew two powerful new midrange missiles over Japan in recent weeks.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-HSEM-214
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY LIGHTS & SIRENS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES FOR THE CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SCORPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HSEM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's Fire Station on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (August 22, 2017)
II. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD ORGANIZATION (Appointments to Standing Committees)**
III. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
IV. **CORRESPONDENCES**
V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Financial Affairs Committee
 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
VI. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
VII. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. None.
VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
 2. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport 8 Air-Conditioning Replacement Units – Change Order No.1 and Supplement Budget Request
 3. Supplemental Budget Request for Airport Utilities
 4. CPA-Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Omnibus Agreement
 5. HR Matter: Position Description – Information Systems Specialist
IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 • Legal Counsel Report: Legal matters/Litigation
X. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/
JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

September 21, 2017

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-29

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"AREA 10 REFURBISHMENT, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 8:30AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BID, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"OUT-PATIENT FURNISHING, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSALS, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0002
-v-	:	
IRENE DANIEL S. SIGRAH AND BILL J. SIGRAH, Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 10, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 1368, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana islands, containing an area of 874 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS check no. 011 G 25, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2568, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of September, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
 a. Call to Order
 b. Roll Call
 c. Adoption of Agenda
 d. Adoption of Minutes
  1) August 31, 2017
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]
III. **REPORTS**
 a. Chair's Report
 b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
V. **NEW BUSINESS**
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]
VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

World

Mexico quake rescuers struggle to free girl, other survivors

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The wiggling fingers of a young girl trapped in the rubble of her collapsed school in Mexico City raised hopes and prodded rescuers to work furiously hour after hour Wednesday in a delicate effort trying to free her from unstable debris—a drama that played out at dozens of buildings toppled by a powerful earthquake that killed at least 245 people.

The death toll rose after Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said the number of confirmed dead in the capital had risen from 100 to 115. An earlier federal government statement had put the overall toll at 230, including 100 deaths in Mexico City.

Mancera also said that late Wednesday two women and a man had been pulled alive from a collapsed office building in the city's center.

But it was the rescue operation at the Enrique Rebsamen school, where at least 21 children and four adults perished in Tuesday's quake, that was seen as emblematic of Mexicans' rush to save survivors before time runs out.

Helmeted workers spotted the girl buried in the debris early Wednesday and shouted to her to move her hand if she could hear. She did, and a rescue dog was sent inside to confirm she was alive. One rescuer told local media he had talked to the girl, who said her name was Frida.

Hours later the crews were still laboring to free her as images of the rescue effort were broadcast on TV screens nationwide. Workers in neon vests and helmets used ropes, pry-bars and other tools, frequently calling on the anxious parents and others gathered around to be silent while they listened for any other voices from beneath the school.

At one point, the workers lowered a sensitive microphone inside the rubble to scan for any noise or movement. A rescuer said they thought they had located someone, but it wasn't clear who.

"It would appear they are continuing to find children," said Carlos Licona, a burly sledge-hammer wielding volunteer who came to help in any way he could. Asked if that made him optimistic, he said, "I hope so."

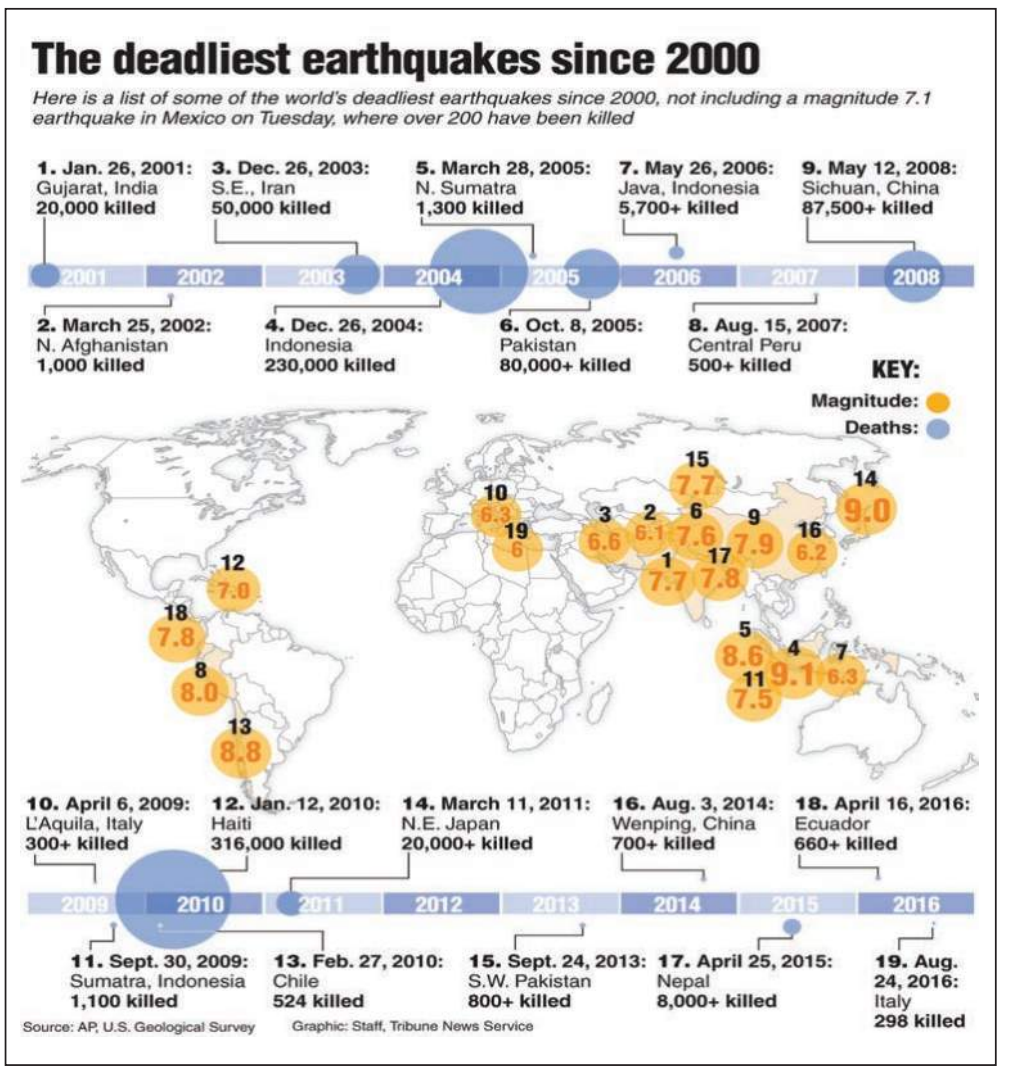
But by late Wednesday night, workers had not been able to get to her, although workers found four corpses in the rubble, volunteer rescue worker Hector Mendez said. Mendez said cameras lowered into the rubble suggested there might be four people still inside, but it wasn't clear if anyone beside the girl was alive.

It was part of similar efforts at the scenes of dozens of collapsed buildings, where firefighters, police, soldiers and civilians wore themselves out hammering, shoveling, pushing and pulling debris aside to try to reach the living and the dead.

By mid-afternoon, 52 people had been pulled out alive since Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 quake, Mexico City's Social Development Department said, adding in a tweet: "We won't stop." Among them were 11 people rescued at the Enrique Rebsamen school, where three people remained missing, two children and an adult. Earlier, journalists saw rescuers pull two small bodies from the rubble, covered in sheets.

More than 24 hours after the collapse, the debris being removed from the school began to change as crews worked their way inside: from huge chunks of brick and concrete, to pieces of wood that looked like remnants of desks and paneling, to a final load that contained a half dozen sparkly hula-hoops.

Even as stunning rescues of people continued, such as a man pulled alive from the rubble of a partly collapsed apartment building in northern Mexico City, there was also a rescue of animals Wednesday.


The deadliest earthquakes since 2000
Here is a list of some of the world's deadliest earthquakes since 2000, not including a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in Mexico on Tuesday, where over 200 have been killed
1. Jan. 26, 2001: Gujarat, India 20,000 killed
2. March 25, 2002: N. Afghanistan 1,000 killed
3. Dec. 26, 2003: S.E., Iran 50,000 killed
4. Dec. 26, 2004: Indonesia 230,000 killed
5. March 28, 2005: N. Sumatra 1,300 killed
6. Oct. 8, 2005: Pakistan 80,000+ killed
7. May 26, 2006: Java, Indonesia 5,700+ killed
8. Aug. 15, 2007: Central Peru 500+ killed
9. May 12, 2008: Sichuan, China 87,500+ killed
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008
KEY:
Magnitude:
Deaths:
10. April 6, 2009: L'Aquila, Italy 300+ killed
11. Sept. 30, 2009: Sumatra, Indonesia 1,100 killed
12. Jan. 12, 2010: Haiti 316,000 killed
13. Feb. 27, 2010: Chile 524 killed
14. March 11, 2011: N.E. Japan 20,000+ killed
15. Sept. 24, 2013: S.W. Pakistan 800+ killed
16. Aug. 3, 2014: Wenping, China 700+ killed
17. April 25, 2015: Nepal 8,000+ killed
18. April 16, 2016: Ecuador 660+ killed
19. Aug. 24, 2016: Italy 298 killed
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
Source: AP, U.S. Geological Survey
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Maria destroys homes, triggers flooding in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years destroyed hundreds of homes, knocked out power across the entire island and turned some streets into raging rivers Wednesday in an onslaught that could plunge the U.S. territory deeper into financial crisis.

Leaving at least nine people dead in its wake across the Caribbean, Hurricane Maria blew ashore in the morning near the southeast coastal town of Yabucoa as a Category 4 storm with winds of 155 mph (250 kph).

It punished the island of 3.4 million people with life-threatening winds for several hours, the second time in two weeks that Puerto Rico has felt the wrath of a hurricane.

"Once we're able to go outside, we're going to find our island destroyed," warned Abner Gomez, Puerto Rico's emergency management director. "The information we have received is not encouraging. It's a system that has destroyed everything in its path."

As people waited in shelters or took cover inside stairwells, bathrooms and closets, Maria brought down cell towers and power lines, snapped trees, tore off roofs and unloaded at least 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain.

Widespread flooding was reported, with dozens of cars half-submerged in some neighborhoods and many streets turned into rivers. People calling local radio stations reported that doors were being torn off their hinges and a water tank flew away.

Felix Delgado, mayor of the northern coastal city of Catano, told The Associated Press that 80 percent of the 454 homes in a neighborhood known as Juana Matos were destroyed. The fishing community near San Juan Bay was hit with a storm surge of more than 4 feet (1.2 meters), he said.

"Months and months and months and months are going to pass before we can recover from this," he said.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello imposed a curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily until Saturday to allow rescue crews and officials to respond to the hurricane's aftermath.

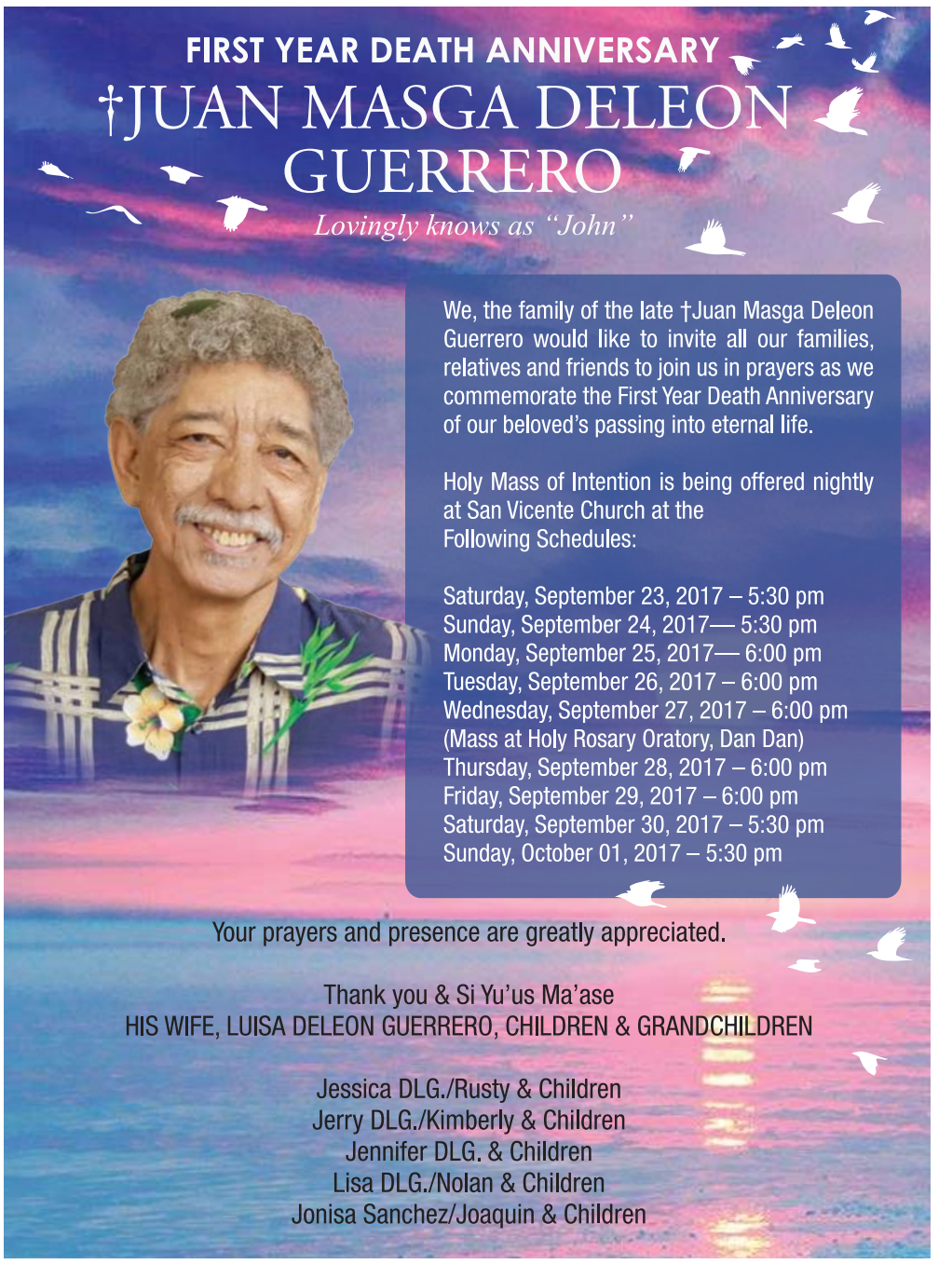
"We are at a critical moment in the effort to help thousands of Puerto Ricans that urgently need aid and to assess the great damage caused by Hurricane Maria," he said. "Maintaining public order will be essential."

Rossello said in an interview on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" that one fatality has been reported but because communications were knocked out in some areas, the total casualty count wasn't known.

As of 11 p.m. EDT, Maria remained a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 110 mph (175 kph). It was centered about 55 miles (88.5 kilometers) off the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, moving at 9 mph (15 kph).

Even before the storm, Puerto Rico's electrical grid was crumbling and the island was in dire condition financially.

Puerto Rico is struggling to restructure a portion of its $73 billion debt, and the government has warned it is running out of money as it fights against furloughs and other austerity measures imposed by a federal board overseeing the island's finances.


FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†JUAN MASGA DELEON GUERRERO
Lovingly knows as "John"
We, the family of the late †Juan Masga Deleon Guerrero would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.
Holy Mass of Intention is being offered nightly at San Vicente Church at the Following Schedules:
Saturday, September 23, 2017 – 5:30 pm
Sunday, September 24, 2017— 5:30 pm
Monday, September 25, 2017— 6:00 pm
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, September 27, 2017 – 6:00 pm
(Mass at Holy Rosary Oratory, Dan Dan)
Thursday, September 28, 2017 – 6:00 pm
Friday, September 29, 2017 – 6:00 pm
Saturday, September 30, 2017 – 5:30 pm
Sunday, October 01, 2017 – 5:30 pm
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you & Si Yu'us Ma'ase
HIS WIFE, LUISA DELEON GUERRERO, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
Jessica DLG./Rusty & Children
Jerry DLG./Kimberly & Children
Jennifer DLG. & Children
Lisa DLG./Nolan & Children
Jonisa Sanchez/Joaquin & Children

Off The Wall

Ex-Mountie is headed to American prison for smuggling narwhal tusks

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—A retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer accused of smuggling narwhal tusks was sentenced Wednesday to five years, two months in a U.S. prison for related money laundering counts.

Gregory Logan, 60, of St. John, New Brunswick, smuggled about 300 tusks valued at $1.5 million to $3 million into Maine in false compartments in his vehicle, federal prosecutors said. They were shipped from Ellsworth, Maine, to buyers across the country.

Narwhals are protected in the United States and Canada. The medium-sized whales are known for their spiral tusks that can grow longer than 8 feet.

"Unlawful wildlife trade like this undermines efforts by federal, state, and foreign governments to protect and restore populations of species like the narwhal, a majestic creature of the sea," said acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Logan was sentenced by a federal judge in U.S. District Court on money-laundering and conspiracy counts to which he pleaded guilty under an agreement in which smuggling charges were dropped.

He has already served four months of home detention and paid a $350,000 fine in Canada after pleading guilty to a related wildlife-smuggling crime.

Logan was charged along with two U.S. residents.

Andrew Zarauskas, of Union, New Jersey, was convicted and sentenced to 33 months. Charges against a Tennessee man were dismissed.

According to the indictment, Logan was working as a Canadian Mountie when he began bringing narwhal tusks across the border into the U.S. in 2000. He retired from the police force in 2003.

He has spent 18 months in custody in the U.S after being extradited from Canada in March 2016. The extradition agreement with Canada limited the charges to the money-laundering counts.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Michigan lottery tickets with 4 zeroes are worth $5,000

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—When are four zeroes worth $5,000? When four zeroes are the winning numbers in a Michigan lottery drawing. Officials say 1,079 players had winning tickets in Michigan's Sunday evening Daily 4 game. Each ticket is worth $5,000. It's the first time that four zeroes were drawn in the game, which has been played since 1981. Each play costs a dollar. The Daily 4 game is played twice a day every day.

Police: Man steals green chile burger after slapping victim

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico man is facing charges after police say he randomly slapped a customer and then stole the man's green chile cheeseburger before dashing away. Santa Fe police arrested 25-year-old Anthony Frazier on Sunday near the Shake Foundation where authorities say the bizarre attack occurred. According to a criminal complaint, the victim says Frazier walked up to him to dance then slapped him across his face. The victim says Frazier then stole his green chile cheeseburger and ran from the scene. Witnesses say Frazier also had a belt around his neck. Police later caught up with Frazier and arrested him for robbery after the victim identified him as the alleged burger thief. It was not known if he had an attorney.

Tractor-trailer makes wrong turn, gets stuck on boardwalk

VENTNOR, N.J. (AP)—A tractor-trailer apparently made a wrong turn and got trapped on a boardwalk at the New Jersey shore. Workers in Ventnor spent Wednesday morning removing benches and railings to help the truck get off of the boardwalk. Police said the truck first drove onto the boardwalk in Atlantic City early Wednesday. It then traveled about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) south, near the end of the boardwalk in Ventnor. The truck wasn't able to make a turn onto a ramp to get off. The cab was later detached and driven off; a tow truck removed the trailer. Ventnor police Chief Doug Biagi says the driver was not intoxicated but was issued a couple of summonses. Engineers were checking to see if the truck caused any structural damage.

Diamond on the highway: Officer comes to driver's rescue

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—A police officer has come to the rescue of a New Jersey woman who lost her diamond engagement ring on a highway while changing a flat tire. Police in Paramus said Kimberly Garcia realized when she got home on Sunday that she had lost her ring after pulling over to change the tire. She went back to the highway that day with police, but they couldn't find the ring. For Officer Jon Henderson, the search wasn't over. He returned to the highway during his free patrol time on Monday and found the ring. The department posted a photo of Garcia with Henderson , smiling with the ring back on her finger.

Colorado cops search for poop-and-run jogger

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Police in Colorado are looking for a jogger they say is repeatedly interrupting her runs to defecate in public in one neighborhood. Cathy Budde says she was first alerted to the woman she's dubbed "The Mad Pooper" by her children, who caught the jogger in the act weeks ago. Budde tells KKTV-TV the woman apologized after she questioned her. But she says the jogger has left something behind on her runs at least once a week for the past seven weeks. Police have asked Budde to take pictures of the woman so they can try to identify her. Budde has put up a sign asking the woman to stop. She says there are public restrooms in the area. Police Sgt. Johnathan Sharketti calls the case "uncharted territory."

Chocolate overload: Rig chock-full of candy bars overturns

GORDONSVILLE, Va. (AP)—The scene was a chocoholic's delight: a rig full of candy bars overturned on a road in Virginia. CBS 19 in Charlottesville reported Tuesday that the truck was hauling 47,000 pounds (21,319 kilograms) of Hershey's chocolate bars when it ran off the side of a road near Gordonsville. The chocolate stayed in the truck. The driver wasn't hurt, but police say he may be cited. The driver told police that a car ahead of him had no brake or tail lights and that he swerved off the road to avoid hitting the car. Police said the truck should not have been on that road, which has length restrictions for vehicles. The truck was 67 feet (20 meters) long, 2 feet (0.61 meters) longer than is allowed.

Science & Technology

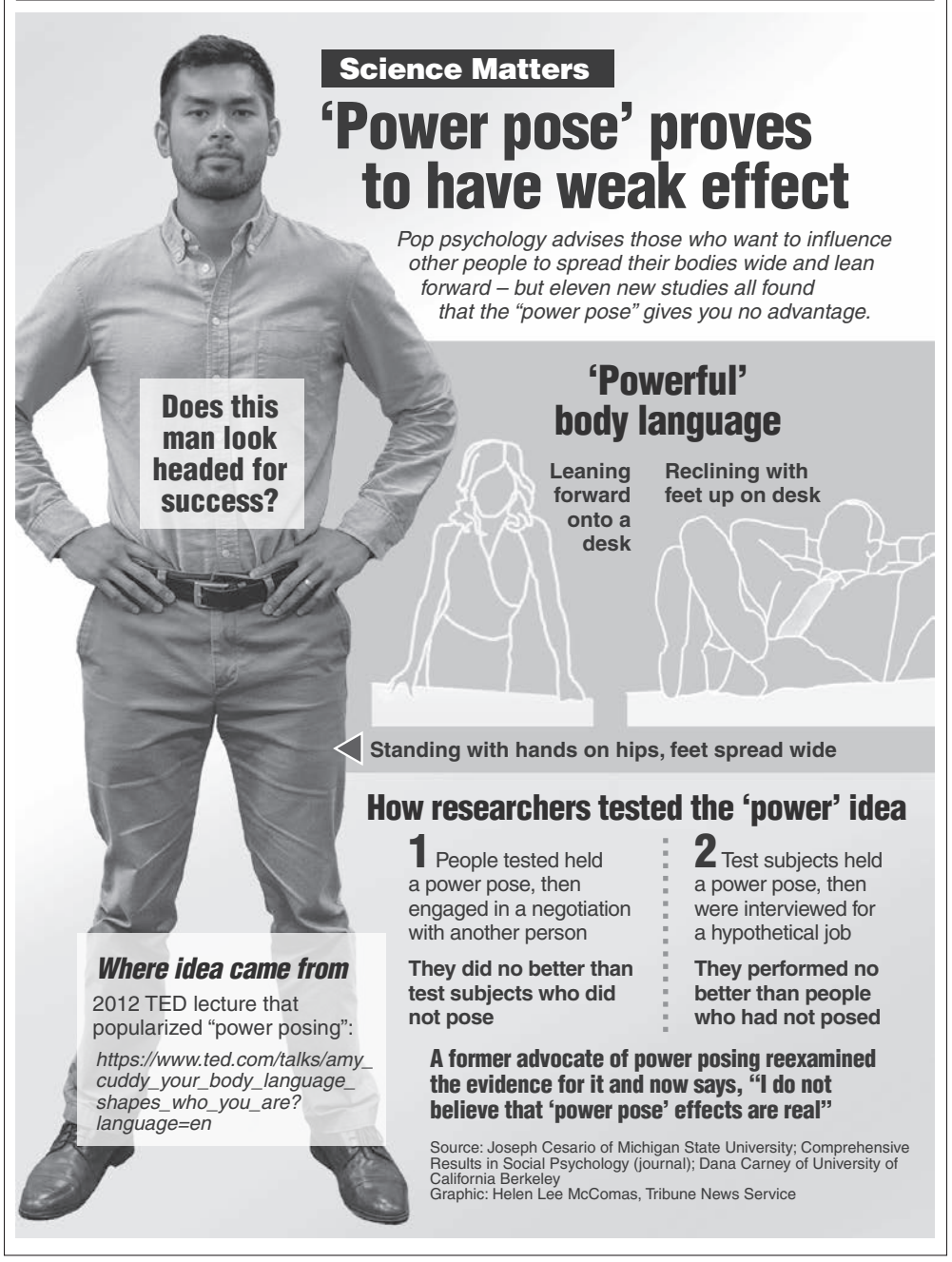
Doorbell that recognizes faces?

Michelle Turner, general manager of security products for Nest Labs, talks about the Hello doorbell during an event Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017, in San Francisco. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Home device maker Nest Labs is adding Google's facial recognition technology to a camera-equipped doorbell and rolling out a security system in an attempt to end its history of losses.

The products announced Wednesday expand upon the internet-connected thermostats, smoke detectors and stand-alone security cameras that Nest has been selling since its inception six years ago.

Although Nest has been among the early leaders in the effort to make home appliances as intelligent as people's smartphones, it hasn't been able to make money to the frustration of its corporate parent, Alphabet. In an attempt to shake things up, Alphabet brought in cable industry veteran Marwan Fawaz to replace Nest founder Tony Fadell as CEO after Fadell stepped down 15 months ago.


Science Matters
'Power pose' proves to have weak effect
Pop psychology advises those who want to influence other people to spread their bodies wide and lean forward – but eleven new studies all found that the "power pose" gives you no advantage.
Does this man look headed for success?
'Powerful' body language
Leaning forward onto a desk
Reclining with feet up on desk
Standing with hands on hips, feet spread wide
How researchers tested the 'power' idea
1 People tested held a power pose, then engaged in a negotiation with another person
They did no better than test subjects who did not pose
2 Test subjects held a power pose, then were interviewed for a hypothetical job
They performed no better than people who had not posed
A former advocate of power posing reexamined the evidence for it and now says, "I do not believe that 'power pose' effects are real"
Where idea came from
2012 TED lecture that popularized "power posing":
https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are?language=en
Source: Joseph Cesario of Michigan State University; Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology (journal); Dana Carney of University of California Berkeley
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Clinton book has sold more than 300,000 copies

NEW YORK (AP)—Hillary Clinton's "What Happened" had a big debut.

Clinton's book, about her stunning presidential election loss in 2016 to Donald Trump, sold more than 300,000 copies in the combined formats of hardcover, e-book and audio, Simon & Schuster told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The book's hardcover sales of 168,000 were the highest opening for any nonfiction release in five years, according to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of retail print sales. Mark Owen's "No Easy Day," a 2012 memoir about the killing of Osama bin Laden, sold more than 250,000 copies in its first week.

Sales for "What Happened" far exceeded the first-week numbers of more than 100,000 copies for Clinton's book about her years as secretary of state, "Hard Choices," which came out in 2014 as she was preparing to launch her run for president. "What Happened" has been at or near the top of the Amazon.com best-seller list since its publication Sept. 12 despite a suspicious early wave of negative reader reviews, likely posted by commentators who had not read the book and later pulled by Amazon.

"The remarkable response to 'What Happened' indicates that, notwithstanding all that has been written and discussed over the last year, there is clearly an overwhelming desire among readers to learn about and experience, from Hillary Clinton's singular perspective, the historic events of the 2016 election," Simon & Schuster CEO Carolyn Reidy said in a statement. "In its candor and immediacy, 'What Happened' is satisfying that demand."

Clinton

Clinton's all-time opening was for her memoir, "Living History," a 2003 release that included her first extended comments on the affair between her husband, President Bill Clinton, and White House intern Monica Lewinsky. "Living History" sold more than 600,000 copies in its first week and came out before the rise of e-books and before the collapse of the Borders superstore chain and the struggles of Barnes & Noble weakened the hardcover market.

Clinton, a Democrat, had promised to let her "guard down" for her first book to come out when she was neither in government nor seeking office. Responses to "What Happened," as with so much of Clinton's political career, have varied widely. Some contended that it was time to "move on" from the elections. Others countered that as the first woman nominated by a major political party she had a vital story to tell and an audience eager to hear about it. Reviewers have called "What Happened" everything from boring and self-serving to revelatory and poignant.

On Oct. 1, "What Happened" will debut at No. 1 on The New York Times' best-seller lists for hardcover and for combined e-book and hardcover. According to Simon & Schuster, the book set a company record for weekly digital audio sales and sold more e-book editions in a week than any nonfiction release from the publisher since Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs in 2011.

At 82, Judi Dench's mission remains the same: 'To learn'

TORONTO (AP)—Judi Dench is not tired.

"I've had one of those pep-up drinks," Dench, beaming as she sits down for a recent interview. "I feel rather sparky."

Caffeinated or not, Dench, 82, remains fully energized. As Stephen Frears, the director of her latest film, "Victoria & Abdul," marvels: "She's the biggest female star in Britain"—a statement that takes a moment to realize how true it is. "It's phenomenal at her age."

Dench's eyesight had deteriorated in recent years due to macular degeneration, so scripts need to be read to her. But that's done little to slow her down or dim her ferocious, mischievous intelligence. On her right wrist is a tattoo of her personal motto, "Carpe Diem" ("Seize the Day"). She had it done for her 81st birthday.

"The process of learning is quite difficult," she says of her eyes. "I can do it. I just have to adjust in a different way. You do what you can, don't you?"

It's a spirit of undaunted inquisitiveness that Dench shares with her latest character, Queen Victoria. In Frears' film, which Focus Features will open in limited release Friday, Dench returns to the monarch she memorably played 20 years ago in her big-screen breakthrough, John Madden's "Mrs. Brown." Dench has credited that film—and the indie distributor who picked it up for nationwide release (Harvey Weinstein)—with birthing her film career.

"Victoria & Abdul" shares some DNA with "Mrs. Brown." The latter chronicled Queen Victoria's friendship with the Scottish servant John Brown (Billy Connolly) after the death of Victoria's beloved husband, Prince Albert, in 1861. "Victoria & Abdul" takes place about 15 years later and concerns another unorthodox relationship Victoria struck up, one only relatively recently discovered.

Letters and diaries uncovered in Shrabani Basu's 2010 book revealed the depth of the Queen's friendship with Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal in the film), a 24-year-old Indian clerk when he arrived in 1887, four years after Brown's death. Despite the staunch disapproval by the royal court of a Muslim being Victoria's close confidant, he became her teacher, or munshi, and stayed close to her side up until her death in 1901.

Dench

Though Victoria was the Empress of India, she knew little of the colony Britain was busy ruthlessly exploiting. Karim taught her Urdu and Hindi, and exposed her to curry. Victoria even stipulated that Abdul was to be one of the principal mourners at her funeral.

"I certainly never expected to be playing her again," says Dench. "Suddenly all the work I had done on that all came back and filled up the character. You have a character and you have to find out the details of them, it's like coloring them in. All that had been done, so that stood me a very good stead. I did feel I understood about her previous life."

"I hope there's something in the end of ('Mrs. Brown') that you can join up with this," Dench adds.

It's not hard to see a commonality between the Victoria of both films and Dench. It's the queen's "need for living" and "vital passion" that she most adores about her. "I want to learn something new every day," says Dench. "I try to. I learn new words. I love it."

"Victoria & Abdul" is Dench's fifth film with Frears, who last directed her in 2013's "Philomena," which earned Dench her seventh Oscar nomination. (Her sole win was for her Queen Elizabeth I in 1999's "Shakespeare in Love.") She and Frears share an unfussy, workmanlike attitude.

"I love his monosyllabic quality," she says, laughing. "Sometimes he says, 'Would you like to go again?' and you know that he means he would like to go again. Sometimes he just walks away and laughs. I love that."

"She's clocked that one," Frears says of his subtle directions. "She's a highly intelligent woman."

Frears, the veteran director of "The Queen" and "Dangerous Liaisons," said he would only make "Victoria & Abdul" if Dench agreed.

"I didn't know if she would," says Frears. "It's possible she turned it down. We organized a reading, so we lured her into the trap."

Dench was speaking shortly after the Toronto International Film Festival premiere of "Victoria & Abdul," which may well return the highly decorated actress to the Academy Awards. Her last visit to Toronto, she remembers, was in 1958 on a six-month tour for the Old Vic, playing "Henry V" and "As You Like It." Dench's stage career—just as illustrious as her film one—has spanned just about every Shakespeare, Ibsen and Chekov play. There is no Shakespeare role she's still pining to play, but Dench does think time has given her a greater understanding of some of her classic roles.

"When I look back now I know I could play Lady Macbeth better now," says Dench. "I know I could play Juliet better now, too. But it's too late."

Yet Dench is hardly backward looking. She'll also co-star later this fall in Kenneth Branagh's old-fashioned mystery, "Murder on the Orient Express."

"It was glorious," she says of the production. "We were on the train. It was just a lot of good jewelry to wear. A couple dogs to control."

Dench planned to spend the afternoon at a gallery to "look at some pictures quietly." She remains on the lookout.

"I look for work," says Dench, matter-of-factly. "Something to keep me occupied. Learn. Learn. Learn."

Son's health problems cause dad to question his parentage

DEAR ABBY: My first marriage ended in divorce 35 years ago because my wife had cheated on me several times. I suspected then that I wasn't my daughter's biological father. Lately I have been wondering about my son, too. Both are in their late 30s now. Obviously, I decided to accept them as my own.

My son and his daughter both have health problems. My granddaughter's medical problems are very serious, but the doctors aren't sure what she has. A saliva test to determine if he is my biological son might give him or my granddaughter some insight into their medical problems. Should I have this test done?

QUESTIONING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR QUESTIONING: Because you feel there is the possibility the test might shed light on genetic medical conditions, discuss it with your son and let him decide whether he wants it done. If there is a chance that the health problems affecting him and his daughter are inherited from his paternal bloodline and you turn out not to be his father, he may want to ask his mother who the person is and see if the man would be willing to have genetic testing done.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I usually hosted all the get-togethers among our friends. We haven't been able to do that for about six months.

Hosting is something I love to do when I'm not working. My family, friends and co-workers have all told me they no longer want to visit -- or vice versa -- because of my husband. He gets drunk and treats them like they are inferior. My husband, a stay-at-home dad, does not see it. There are now many people in my life I no longer see because of his rudeness.

My husband and I have been best friends since third grade. I love him, but protecting him and making excuses for him is exhausting. What should I do?

HARD-WORKING SPOUSE

DEAR HARD WORKING: One of the symptoms of a "problem drinker" is when the drinking affects that person's relationships. Your mistake has been in trying to protect your husband from the consequences of his drinking. What you need to do is attend some Al-Anon meetings and do what you can to steer your husband out of denial and into a substance-abuse program. To find a meeting near you, visit al-anon.org.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, I hired a woman to keep house for me. She's a single mom and not well off. I cleaned out my closet recently and selected more than 100 items to donate. I told my cleaning lady to go through them and choose anything she might wear, but asked that she take only things she really wanted because I planned to donate the rest to a charity. To my surprise, she took two-thirds of the stuff. I hope she isn't selling it. I'm not sure if I should say anything to her. What do you think?

NEW TO THIS IN ARIZONA

DEAR NEW TO THIS: I think that the next time you decide to clear out your closet, you offer the woman a limited number of garments and that's all.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

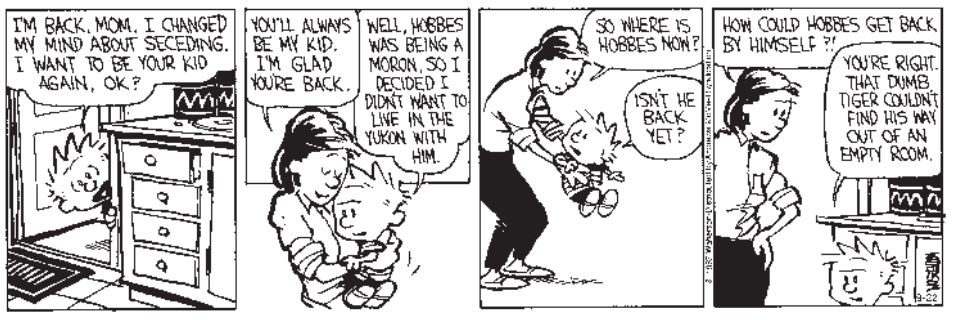
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M BACK, MOM. I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT SECEDING. I WANT TO BE YOUR KID AGAIN, OK?
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY KID. I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK.
WELL, HOBBES WAS BEING A MORON, SO I DECIDED I DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE IN THE YUKON WITH HIM.
SO WHERE IS HOBBES NOW?
ISN'T HE BACK YET?
HOW COULD HOBBES GET BACK BY HIMSELF ?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT DUMB TIGER COULDN'T FIND HIS WAY OUT OF AN EMPTY ROOM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M GOING TO PRACTICE VISITING WITH LIZ
WE SHOULD SHARE OUR FEELINGS
NOTICE HOW I DIDN'T GIGGLE WHEN I SAID THAT?
I'M IMPRESSED
JIM DAVIS 9-22

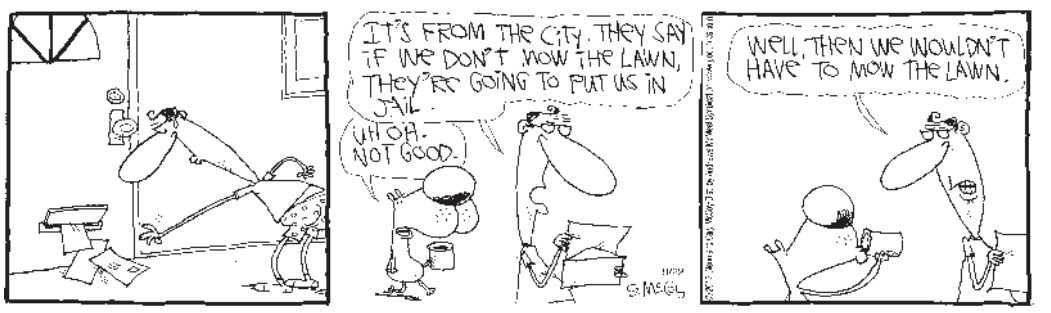
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SORRY, GUYS. JANICE WASN'T AVAILABLE TO SIT. AMY IS COMING OVER.
GROAN.
"MEAN AMY." CAN I JUST GO TO BED NOW? SHE'S UNBEARABLE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE "MEAN AMY" ISN'T REALLY MEAN, SHE'S JUST A LEVEL-HEADED GIRL WHO STICKS TO THE RULES.
POTAYTO POTAHTO.
SERIOUSLY. I LIKE MY SITTERS WITH SOME PIZAZZ.
WE DON'T PAY FOR PIZAZZ. PIZAZZ IS EXTRA.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S FROM THE CITY. THEY SAY IF WE DON'T MOW THE LAWN, THEY'RE GOING TO PUT US IN JAIL.
UH OH. NOT GOOD.
WELL, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO MOW THE LAWN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Muppet eagle
4 Business mag
7 Not hollow
12 Yale grad
13 Mermaid's home
14 Packing string
15 Abolish
16 Canadian flag symbol
18 Hosp. hookups
19 Play the banjo
20 Greek cheese
22 Dig in
23 Weaponry
27 Roscoe
29 Weather-changing current
31 Church bell sounds
34 Office mail holder
35 Hosted
37 Browns, on scoreboards
38 Bard
39 Equi-
41 Picture of health?
45 Lively ballroom dance
47 World Cup cheer
48 Type of binder
52 Bake sale org.
53 "As You Like It" setting
54 TV alien
55 Hearing thing
56 Walks in water
57 ACLU concerns
58 Train lines (Abbr.)

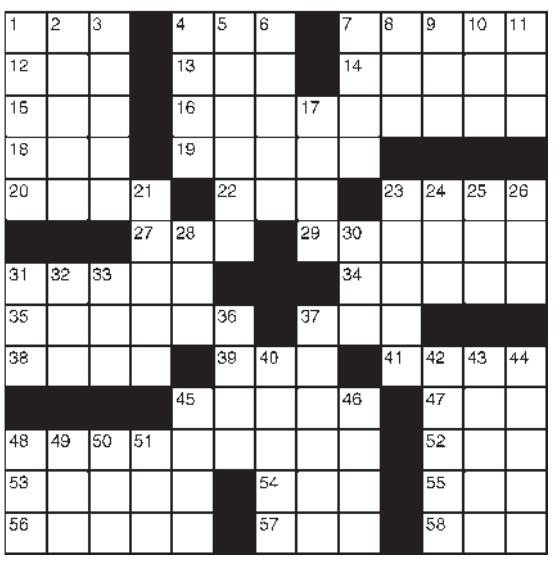
DOWN

1 Helvetica lack
2 Breathing
3 Central part
4 Doctrines
5 Tidy up
6 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
7 Goblet feature
8 Barn bird
9 Fish story
10 — tizzy
11 Dict. info
17 Mandolin's kin
21 Shoelace tip
23 Wing
24 Tease
25 L-P link
26 Boston team, for short
28 Employ
30 Dogpatch adjective
31 Zing
32 Punk rock offshoot
33 Expert
36 Old radio part
37 Blue hue
40 Slander
42 Pollster Elmo
43 Wedding setting
44 Decade parts
45 Clothing store section
46 Does in
48 Legislation
49 Mouths (Lat.)
50 Peculiar
51 Observe

Solution time: 25 mins.

J	O	B		P	E	N	S		D	R	I	P
A	V	A		O	R	E	O		R	J	N	E
B	A	Y	B	E	H	H	Y		A	S	I	O
			O	A	T		D	U	N	G	E	O	N
B	A	N	D	I	T		Z	E	N			
A	X	E		C	O	B		T	E	T	R	A
B	E	T	H		N	U	N		A	U	T	
E	L	S	I	E		D	O	C		M	B	A
			P	G	A		W	A	R	P	E	D
P	E	R	S	O	N	A		M	O	A		
I	S	I	T		G	R	E	E	N	B	A	Y
C	A	F	E		E	L	A	L		A	L	I
S	U	F	R		O	T	S		Y	F	P	

Yesterday's answer 9-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bonnie Hunt, 56; Scott Baio, 57; Andrea Bocelli, 59; Joan Jett, 59.

Happy Birthday: Your determination and hard work will pay off. You are heading into an industrious period that will enhance your chances to advance. Don't waste time contemplating things or make the mistake of being too impulsive. Finding the right balance will be your ticket to lasting success. Make every moment count and you will be satisfied with the results. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 23, 35, 41, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Getting along with your peers will be your best interest. Network, socialize and gain ground with the people who can make a difference to the way you advance. Charm and creative input will be your ticket into interesting conversations. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Children, friends or your partner will have an impact on the choices you make and the things you choose to do. Engage in activities that are geared toward working alongside people who share your beliefs. Personal improvements will be rewarding. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get involved, take action and do your part. Sitting back and stewing about something you don't like will result in blowing up when the pressure builds. Face challenges head-on and you will find it easier to make a difference. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll be tempted to take on too much or to let your emotions get the better of you. Take a moment to relax and think matters through and you'll come up with a unique alternative that works perfectly for you. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A positive change at home or to your current place of employment will give you reason to celebrate. Make plans that include your family members, friends and trusted co-workers. Your generosity will be appreciated. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put some muscle behind your plans. Digging in and physically getting involved in the process will bring you satisfaction and monetary rewards. Let your imagination flow and use your ingenuity to make your dream come true. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Partnerships will go through subtle changes. Keep an open mind as well as a close watch over the way others treat you. It takes two to tango, so do your best to keep things running smoothly. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Problems regarding your job, finances or legal matters will arise if you let someone else handle your affairs. Stay involved no matter what is going on. You may not be an expert, but you know what's best for you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Join a group or organization that is fighting for the causes you believe in. Your input will make a difference, but at the same time could also alienate those who disagree with you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Uncertainty will escalate if you get tied up with someone who is unpredictable. Stick to the projects that are bound to excel even if they sound less exciting. Walk away from bad influences and risky ventures. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A financial matter will turn emotional if you take a loss. Be cautious with where you put your money and how you handle your assets. Too much of anything will be to your disadvantage. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Negotiate a new contract or update your resume. Taking charge of your future will help you head in a new direction. Use your skills and talents in different ways and you will expand your options. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, sophisticated and appealing. You are spontaneous and intelligent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			3	8			7
			2	1			
		2			6		
2	3		1	7		4	9
	5		4	9		3	
		4			8		
			6	2			
6			8	3			2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	8	1	5	7	4	2	9
7	1	4	9	2	3	5	6	8
2	9	5	6	4	8	7	3	1
5	4	9	3	1	2	6	8	7
8	3	2	7	6	9	1	4	5
1	7	6	4	8	5	3	9	2
9	5	7	8	3	4	2	1	6
4	8	1	2	7	6	9	5	3
6	2	3	5	9	1	8	7	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JUICE IT! Solution: 8 letters

H	P	I	O	R	A	N	G	E	U	L	A	V	X	C
C	B	R	M	R	I	C	H	S	E	R	F	L	O	E
A	U	E	O	P	G	M	I	X	E	D	E	L	T	L
N	N	C	T	T	R	A	M	I	N	T	D	A	E	E
I	H	E	U	A	E	O	N	U	P	T	I	Y	D	R
P	E	Y	C	M	L	I	V	I	N	H	G	O	C	Y
S	A	L	D	N	B	U	N	E	C	E	E	H	A	R
T	L	E	D	R	A	E	M	E	G	R	S	C	Y	R
N	T	M	S	Y	A	H	R	I	O	F	T	K	E	E
E	H	O	G	P	S	T	N	A	T	T	I	O	N	B
I	Y	N	P	I	H	G	E	E	D	S	A	B	N	W
R	A	L	R	I	E	T	S	A	T	I	E	M	E	A
T	E	U	C	R	F	L	U	S	H	E	S	E	O	R
U	O	K	A	L	E	C	U	D	O	R	P	H	D	T
N	I	A	L	E	M	O	R	B	G	R	E	E	N	S

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Bok Choy, Bromelain, Cayenne, Celery, Chia, Cold, Cucumber, Detox, Digest, Enhance, Fiber, Flushes, Fresh, Ginger, Greens, Healthy, Hydrate, Immune, Improve, Kale, Lemon, Mint, Mixed, Nourishment, Nutrients, Orange, Organic, Pineapple, Produce, Protein, Radish, Rich, Seeds, Spinach, Stimulate, Strawberry, Tangy, Taste, Thick, Tomato, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Ragu

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

I **PUNEET NATHRANI, son** of **RAJKUMAR NATHRANI**, holder of Indian Passport No. **G8564301** issued at **SAN FRANCISCO** on **July 17, 2008**, permanent resident of, **H/NO 13/117, CHAR BAGH, SHAHGANJ, AGRA UP 282010, INDIA** and presently residing at **PO BOX 505782, CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN 96950, USA** do hereby change my name from **PUNEET** to **PUNEET NATHRANI**, with immediate effect.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Mechanic (1) - Minimium of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate $6.55 to $7.50/hr.

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No phone calls please.

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Position: General Car Sales Manager

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Cook – Full Time (1)

Requirement:
High school graduate, GED or equivalent plus two (2) year work experience as a cook. Preferably one with experience in Western, Japanese, Korean and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast pace service environment. Able to multi-task and flexible to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Final interview may include a skill test. This position requires examination and clearance for Food Handlers Certificate before hire. Food Handlers Certificate must be valid at all time during employment.

Salary Range - $8.00 to $9.00

Deadline for submission: October 5, 2017.
Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30AM to 5:30PM. Applications must be supported with resume, diploma or certificate and a valid photo I.D.
Applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S.

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For more information visit
https://www.starmarianasair.com/join-our-team

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Bookkeeper

Duties:

- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivables.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of two (2) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Purpose:
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

Duties:

- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepare income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Managing Processes, Financial Software, Developing Standards, Audit, Accounting, Corporate Finance, Tracking Budget Expenses, Financial Skills, Analyzing Information , Developing Budgets, Performance Management.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
- Knowledge of Excel.

Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

WHATZIT Solution: Most-wanted list

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Sale reaches 300-strikeout mark in MLB

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AP)—Chris Sale struck out 13 to become the first AL pitcher in 18 years to reach the 300 mark, and the Boston Red Sox clinched a playoff berth hours after beating the Baltimore Orioles 9-0 on Wednesday night.

Boston (88-64) was assured at least a wild card and its second consecutive trip to the postseason when the Los Angeles Angels lost to the Cleveland Indians. Of course, the Red Sox are looking for much more than that. They lead the AL East by three games over the rival New York Yankees with 10 to play as Boston pursues its third division title in five years.

Sale (17-7) reached the milestone on his last pitch, a called third strike against Ryan Flaherty to end the eighth inning. The last AL pitcher to fan 300 batters in a season was Boston's Pedro Martinez in 1999, when he set a club record with 313.

Mookie Betts and Deven Marrero homered for the Red Sox.

After winning two straight 11-inning games over the skidding Orioles, Boston jumped to a 6-0 lead in the fifth and coasted to its 11th win in 14 games.

Betts and Marrero hit two-run homers in the fourth against Wade Miley (8-14), and Hanley Ramirez added a two-run double in the fifth.

Sale allowed four hits and walked none in matching his career high for wins.

Boston joined AL Central champion Cleveland and AL West champion Houston in the American League playoffs, which begin next month. Two spots are still up for grabs.

AP
Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws to the Baltimore Orioles in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017.

Indians 6, Angels 5

In Anaheim Calif., Francisco Lindor snapped a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer and the remarkable Cleveland Indians held off Los Angeles for their 26th victory in 27 games.

It was Lindor's 31st home run of the season, most by a switch-hitting shortstop in major league history.

Albert Pujols hit his 614th home run for the Angels, who remained 1½ games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

The AL Central champion Indians have beaten the Angels 10 consecutive times.

Tyler Olson (1-0) won in relief of Josh Tomlin, who allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings. Bryan Shaw worked two hitless innings for his third save.

Yankees 11, Twins 3

In New York, Aaron Judge hit his AL-leading 45th home run and topped 100 RBIs, Didi Gregorius surpassed Derek Jeter for the most home runs by a Yankees shortstop and New York beat Minnesota for a three-game sweep.

The game was briefly halted in the fifth inning when a foul ball down the third-base line off the bat of Todd Frazier struck a young girl, who was carried out of the stands, given first aid and taken to a hospital.

Frazier knelt down and covered his head, and many other Yankees and Twins watched in stunned silence as the fan was helped.

The Yankees, who have won 10 of 12, opened a seven-game advantage over the Twins for the top AL wild card with 10 games remaining.

Rays 8, Cubs 1

St. Petersburg, Fla., Blake Snell gave up two hits in seven shutout innings, and Tampa Bay ended Chicago's season-best seven-game winning streak.

The Cubs, who had not lost since being swept by the Milwaukee Brewers in a three-game series in Chicago on Sept. 8-10, are scheduled to open a four-game series in Milwaukee on Thursday night. They lead the Brewers by 3½ games in the NL Central.

Steven Souza Jr. hit his 30th home run in the first inning and the Rays added three more runs in the second off Jon Lester.

Phillies 7, Dodgers 5

In Philadelphia, Aaron Altherr hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth after launching a tying, two-run homer an inning earlier, and Philadelphia beat slumping Los Angeles.

The Dodgers have lost four straight and 20 of 25 and will have to wait until at least Friday to wrap up the NL West.

The Phillies have won eight of 10 and are 32-33 since the All-Star break, climbing out of last place in the majors.

Pirates 6, Brewers 4

In Pittsburgh, Adam Frazier hit a two-run homer off Milwaukee closer Corey Knebel with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh to the victory.

The Pirates tied it in the eighth on a throwing error by Knebel then ended a seven-game losing streak when Frazier homered into the first row of seats in the right-field stands.

Jesus Aguilar and Domingo Santana homered for the Brewers but Milwaukee missed a chance to pull into a tie with Colorado for the second wild-card spot in the National League.

Diamondbacks 13, Padres 7

In San Diego, David Peralta hit a leadoff homer and added a go-ahead double in the seventh for Arizona, which scored 11 runs in the final four innings and overcame Hunter Renfroe's three homers for San Diego.

The Padres, who blew a 6-2 lead, hit five home runs and set a team record with 181 this season. Renfroe had his first career three-homer game and tied Nate Colbert's club mark for rookies with 24. Renfroe became the first Padres rookie to hit three home runs, and the seventh San Diego player overall to do it.

The Diamondbacks, who have a comfortable lead in the NL wild-card race, hit four homers in avoiding a three-game sweep. They scored four times in the sixth to tie it, including a two-run homer by J.D. Martinez, and went ahead in the seventh. Chris Herrmann singled off Craig Stammen (2-3) and scored the go-ahead run on Peralta's double.

Rangers 8, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Rougned Odor's grand slam capped a seven-run fourth inning and Texas beat Seattle to make up ground in the playoff chase.

The Rangers moved within 2½ games of Minnesota for the second AL wild card. Seattle dropped its fifth straight and remained four games behind the Twins.

Seattle, which trailed 7-1 early, pulled to 8-5 on Robinson Cano's two-run single in the seventh but then left the bases loaded. The Mariners made it 8-6 in the eighth.

Andrew Cashner (10-10) allowed three runs in six innings for Texas. Alex Claudio got six outs for his 10th save.

Longtime ace Felix Hernandez (5-5), making his second start for Seattle since coming off the disabled list, allowed six runs — five earned — on two hits and three walks in 3 1/3 innings.

Nelson Cruz and Mitch Haniger homered for the Mariners.

Royals 15, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Mike Moustakas hit his 37th home run of the season, breaking Steve Balboni's Royals record, Salvador Perez and Whit Merrifield also connected and Kansas City routed Toronto.

Rookie right-hander Jakob Junis (8-2) allowed four runs, two earned, in 6 1/3 innings, improving to 5-0 with a 2.42 ERA over his past eight starts.

Moustakas went 3 for 4 and came within a triple of hitting for the cycle. He eclipsed Balboni's 1985 record with a solo blast to right off Carlos Ramirez in the sixth.

Merrifield also had three hits and drove in a pair of runs as the Royals snapped a three-game losing streak and won for the second time in their past seven.

Giants 4, Rockies 0

In San Francisco, Tyler Chatwood dug himself an early hole and Colorado lost to last-place San Francisco for its third straight defeat.

Joe Panik hit a one-out triple in the first inning off Chatwood (8-13) and immediately scored on Denard Span's sacrifice fly. Panik then doubled in the third and came home on Buster Posey's sacrifice fly.

Brandon Crawford hit a solo homer in the third to back Matt Moore (6-14), who earned his first win against Colorado after going 0-2 over his first three outings of the year.

Cardinals 9, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Dexter Fowler homered for the third straight game while Matt Carpenter and Paul DeJong also homered as St. Louis gained ground in its playoff push with a win over Cincinnati.

Tommy Pham finished with two doubles, a single and two RBIs and Yadier Molina added a two-run double as the third-place Cardinals (79-72) gained a game on Colorado in the wild-card race to move within 2½ games. St. Louis sits five games behind the Cubs in the NL Central chase.

Rookie right-hander Luke Weaver (7-1) retired 10 straight batters in one stretch on the way to his seventh straight winning start, the major leagues' longest active streak and the longest by a Cardinals pitcher this season. The 24-year-old allowed five hits and two runs with seven strikeouts in five innings.

Nationals 7, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Braves closer Arodys Vizcaino issued three bases-loaded walks in the six-run eighth, Gio Gonzalez pitched seven strong innings and Washington beat Atlanta.

Gonzalez (15-7) allowed two runs, three hits and one walk to enjoy some rare good luck in the series. The left-hander, who struck out eight, began the night 4-11 with a 5.27 ERA in 20 career starts against the Braves.

The NL East champion Nationals rallied from a 2-1 deficit for their third straight win.

Pinch-hitter Wilmer Difo singled, Trea Turner doubled and Jayson Werth walked in the eighth against Jose Ramirez (2-3). Braves manager Brian Snitker brought in Vizcaino, and the move quickly backfired.

Astros 4, White Sox 3

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel had three hits, including a two-run double, Brad Peacock threw six solid innings and Houston extended its winning streak to six games with a win over Chicago.

Peacock (12-2) allowed two runs on one hit with six strikeouts. The right-hander continues to throw well, allowing two runs or fewer in each of his last five starts.

After Yoan Moncada put the White Sox up 2-1 in the top of the fourth with a two-run homer, Gurriel answered with his two-run hit in the bottom half of the inning.

Marlins 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

In Miami, J.T. Realmuto homered in the 10th inning, and Miami beat New York after rallying for three runs in the ninth against former teammate A.J. Ramos.

With one out, Realmuto hit a 1-1 pitch from Paul Sewald (0-6) into the Mets' bullpen for his 17th homer.

Miami trailed 4-1 in the ninth before coming back against Ramos, who faced the Marlins for the first time since they traded the closer to New York on July 28.

Justin Bour led off with his 22nd homer and first since a six-week stint on the disabled list. Ramos then gave up four singles, including two-out RBI hits by pinch-hitter A.J. Ellis and Ichiro Suzuki.

Athletics 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Daniel Mengden pitched seven scoreless innings, and Marcus Semien homered and drove in three runs, leading Oakland to a 3-2 win and three-game sweep of Detroit.

Mengden (2-1) allowed seven hits and struck out four, extending his scoreless streak to 16 1/3 innings and helping the A's to their fourth consecutive win. The 24-year-old right-hander missed the first two months of the season after undergoing offseason foot surgery and was making his fifth major league start this year.

Vikings QB uncertainty: Bradford says knee is 'better'

AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Case Keenum (7) passes during the first half of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—As the Minnesota Vikings plunged into a second week of uncertainty at their most important position, quarterback Sam Bradford offered reasons to believe he'll return swiftly from a left knee injury.

That's the hope at team headquarters and among the fan base, at least, following a 26-9 loss at Pittsburgh with backup Case Keenum forced into action .

As for the chance Bradford will be able to play on Sunday against Tampa Bay and keep his absence to one game?

"I would like to think that they're good, but a lot just depends on how my knee responds when we go out there and practice this week," Bradford said Wednesday before taking the field.

The Vikings listed him as a limited participant in the workout, as they did each day last week, but the soreness and swelling in Bradford's twice-repaired knee didn't improve enough by pregame warmups to gain clearance to play against the Steelers. Bradford had reconstructive surgery while with St. Louis in both 2013 and 2014 after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament each time.

"After the two ACLs, there have been some ups and some downs with it, but this particular issue I'm not sure I've ever dealt with this before," Bradford said.

While posting a career-best 143.0 passer rating with a brilliant performance in the season-opening 29-19 victory over New Orleans on Sept. 10, Bradford twisted the knee in a non-contact situation. Though he showed no sign of trouble and never felt concern, the knee caused him increasing discomfort as the night went on. The next morning was worse. Taking it easy throughout the week wasn't enough.

"I was hoping that it was going to feel better than it did," Bradford said.

Neither the Vikings nor Bradford have revealed specific details of the nature of the injury, though occasional soreness and swelling in a knee that has been previously reconstructed is not abnormal. Asked whether this could be a chronic issue he will have to manage moving forward, Bradford said he wasn't sure.

"I think we'll figure that out kind of as we go, to be honest," he said. "Hopefully it will continue to get better each day."

That's been the message from frustrated coach Mike Zimmer, too.

When asked if he's confident Bradford will play against the Buccaneers, Zimmer responded: "It's day to day. How do I know?"

Zimmer was at least upbeat about Keenum's previous NFL experience and energy on the field, even if his performance against the Steelers left a lot to be desired. Keenum didn't throw any touchdown passes and struggled at times in the face of an aggressive pass rush, but he didn't commit any turnovers, either.

"When you see him out there in a game, you see that desire and burn that he has deep down," tight end Kyle Rudolph said. "He wants to go out there and make plays for us and help us win."

Undrafted out of Houston, Keenum stayed in the same city to start his professional career with the Texans. Then he spent the next two years with the Rams. His overall record as a starter is 9-16.

Healthy(ish) Steelers looking to avoid letdown in Chicago

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Two weeks in and Mike Tomlin's problems are of the NFL first-world variety.

The Pittsburgh Steelers are unbeaten at 2-0 despite not lighting up scoreboards the way they anticipated, managing just four offensive touchdowns through eight quarters.

The defense has been solid, though it has forced just one turnover and is still searching for its first interception.

The injury list is growing—right tackle Marcus Gilbert is dealing with a right hamstring issue and T.J. Watt's groin kept him out of the majority of Sunday's win over Minnesota—but manageable.

There are worse ways to start a season of Super Bowl expectations.

Way worse.

"We will still be a team in development like all teams are and we just simply acknowledge it," Tomlin said Tuesday. "We better find ways to win along the way."

So far Pittsburgh has, though Tomlin is hardly getting ahead of himself even with a trip to struggling Chicago (0-2) this Sunday.

The Steelers have won in Chicago just once in franchise history and previous time they faced Bears quarterback Mike Glennon, he put together a fourth-quarter rally to lead Tampa Bay to a stunning upset at Heinz Field in 2014.

"He has physical traits that you can't coach," Tomlin said. "His stature allows for great field vision. He can make any throw on the field. He is a great anticipator. You see it when you watch his tape."

Even if the tape hasn't been too kind to Glennon this season. He's been unable to generate much downfield thanks in part to a rash of injuries at wide receiver and the Bears have mustered all of 24 points through two weeks. The Steelers have allowed just 27 and have yet to trail at any point. It's early, but it's promising.

The defense's steadiness has made the offense's semi-sluggish start a non-issue.

Running back Le'Veon Bell is averaging just 3.2 yards per carry and has just 138 total yards. He averaged an NFL-high 156 yards from scrimmage last season.

Bell said on Sunday he's due for a breakout game and Tomlin isn't concerned about Bell's contract situation—he's playing on a one-year franchise tender—clouding Bell's decision-making.

"We're just going to continue to do what we've been doing and know that if we do and stay committed, that the splash plays are going to come," Tomlin said. "I know that he shares that mentality. I'm not overly concerned about him pressing and trying to do too much to create."

Tomlin is confident the points and yards will come. As long as Pittsburgh can win while avoiding major mistakes, he'll take it.

Man testifies in trial over NBA players assault

PHOENIX (AP)—The man accusing NBA players Marcus and Markieff Morris of aggravated assault was pressed Tuesday by defense lawyers about his financial motives in the case.

An Arizona grand jury indicted the Morris brothers on felony aggravated assault charges. They are accused of helping three other people beat Erik Hood outside a Phoenix recreation center on Jan. 24, 2015.

Two of the other co-defendants pleaded guilty Sept. 13 to the same charges. The Morris brothers and the final defendant, Gerald Bowman, have pleaded not guilty.

Hood told Phoenix police he was leaving a high school basketball game when he was approached by a friend of the Morris brothers. Hood said the man was speaking to him when he was punched in the back of the head.

AP
NBA players Markieff, left, and Marcus Morris arrive at Superior Court for the second day of their aggravated assault trial, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017, in Phoenix.

Hood tried to run but fell down before five men, including the Morris twins, punched and kicked him repeatedly, authorities said. All five left in a Rolls Royce Phantom, according to police.

Hood, 36, testified he wanted justice for the incident that left him with a broken nose and other injuries.

The Morris brothers have known Hood since they were promising teenage AAU players, but Hood testified they had a falling out in 2011.

Hood testified that his relationship with the brothers became strained because of a misinterpreted text message he sent their mother. He said there was nothing "improper" happening with him and their mother.

Defense attorney Timothy Eckstein suggested Hood knew he had no chance of having a professional relationship with the players after the 2011 incident, but Hood insisted their relationship was not based on the twins making it to the NBA.

The Morris brothers were drafted back-to-back in the first round of the 2011 NBA draft.

The 6-foot-9 twins became teammates in 2013 when Marcus was traded to the Suns.

Hood stressed in court that he wasn't looking at any of the defendants differently from each other.

Hood initially identified both Marcus and Markieff Morris as assailants, but later changed his statement and said he couldn't be sure whether Markieff had physically assaulted him or was just in the vicinity.

Defense attorneys pressed Hood on his knowing about the NBA players' substantial assets and asked if he was intent on having a claim on at least one of the Morris twins for his financial gain. Hood denied that claim.

Eckstein reviewed text messages Hood sent to multiple people indicating the Morris twins would have to pay him millions in financial damages for the case.

The Morris brothers face the possibility of prison time and discipline from the NBA, including a minimum 10-game suspension, if they are found guilty. Marcus was traded to the Boston Celtics in July, and Markieff is now with the Washington Wizards.

The two-week trial also threatens to disrupt the start of their 2017 NBA season, with training camp set to begin for both players on Sept. 26.

Center Plumlee returning to Nuggets on 3-year, $41M deal

DENVER (AP)—Mason Plumlee lived out of a hotel last season after being acquired in a February trade and didn't get a chance to venture out much in Denver.

He hopes to change all that—even mingle more with the fans—after the restricted free agent center agreed Monday to return to the Nuggets on a three-year, $41 million deal, which was first reported by ESPN. His agent, Mark Bartelstein, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press.

On his Twitter account, Plumlee posted a clip from the cartoon series "South Park" of the characters tossing around a basketball along with the words "Let's Go. " He also wrote a letter to Nuggets fans on his website.

"We met briefly last year, but I never had the chance to give you a firm handshake, look you in the eye and formally introduce myself," Plumlee said in the letter. "I apologize for that. It's not how my parents raised me. But the truth is I didn't even have time to unpack my bags. For three months I lived in a hotel, and half that time was spent in hotels on the road. (No complaints, these were very nice hotels—but hotels aren't home). Then the season ended and I entered the contractual purgatory known as restricted free agency (more on that another time)."

Plumlee went on to list a few of the things the Nuggets faithful should know about him. First, he's "thrilled" to be back with a team that's opened its wallet this offseason after improving by seven games last season, only to still miss the playoffs for a fourth straight year. Denver also signed four-time All-Star Paul Millsap to a three-year deal worth about $90 million.

"I am grateful that we got a deal done and excited for the challenge of the season to come," Plumlee wrote.

Next, Plumlee noted that he doesn't like losing. Denver lost out on the eighth and final playoff spot to Portland last season.

"Last year was the first time in my entire organized basketball career (going all the way back to my fourth grade town league in Indiana) that my team wasn't playing in the postseason," he wrote. "I never want to experience that again."

LIETO

From Page 32

gave up two runs in the top of the fourth.

Matagolai doubled and scored on a Kai'noa wild pitch, while Quinson Blas singled and reached home on a Falcons error as the Blue Jays went ahead, 2-0, in the top of the fourth.

He was also effective at the plate scoring the Falcons' lone run in the bottom of the fourth. He walked, stole second, reached third on a Matagolai error, and scored on another throwing error by the Blue Jays.

Frankie Lifoifoi and Barry Sunumai added a run apiece in the bottom of the fifth and Lieto just shut down the Blue Jays after that.

The Blue Jays had three hits the entire game all given up by Kai'noa, while the Falcons had four.

In the Masters league, the IPI Masters rallied from a seven-run deficit in the first inning and escaped with an 14-11 victory against defending champion GSM Masters last Wednesday night.

GSM scored seven runs in the first, but could not repeat that offensive burst as IPI slowly came back and completed the win despite only having six hits.

John Acosta went perfect at the plate, 3-for-3 with an RBI and one run, while J.J. Cabrera, who walked twice, added two runs. Ralph Yumul also reached home plate twice, getting on base on a fielder's choice and a walk.

Ed Santos, Ben Duenas, Reno Celis, and Phil Celis alternated on the mound for IPI combining for eight earned runs on six hits with 12 walks and four strikeouts.

Greg Camacho, who went 4-for-4 for GSM to remain perfect at the plate with a combined 7-for-7 in the season, got two doubles, while Rep. Vinnie Sablan batted 2-for-2 with two runs and two RBIs.

On Monday, the Papa Bears was merciless in a 34-5 mauling of last year's runners-up Saisei. Saisei used six pitchers against the Bears, but could not get the right person to prevent the scoring barrage of their opponents.

THE CRANK

From Page 32

Leech" Li of China (13-4 with four wins by KOs and five by submission) in the fourth undercard match that ended in the latter's favor via a three-round unanimous decision.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that he sees his UFC loss in a positive way, adding that he learned a lot from that fight that would help him grow more as an MMA warrior. "I'm not yet done with my MMA journey. I would continue to dream and do it because I inspire others to also give their best and reach for their goals."

"I'm at that level where I have the heart and skill to fight. The drive to make it to the next stage, so I'll use that [UFC] loss and come back a better and smarter fighter next time," he added after receiving a special resolution given by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

The council—chair Luis John "L.J." Castro, vice chair Diego Kaipat, and secretary Antonia Tudela—awarded the citation before the start of the matches in last week's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

"I'm surprised with the award that the council gave me. All I know was I'm going to be a referee in a couple of fights, help some of my friends at their corner, and enjoy the rest of the night. I'm honored with what they gave me," said Camacho.

"I just want to tell the other fighters, especially those who are just starting, to never stop training and believing in yourself. MMA in the CNMI has grown tremendously with the community's support and we are thankful for that," added Camacho, who is now based in Guam.

UFC fighter

Camacho said that he was a last-minute replacement against Li. "The organizers saw one of fights and talked to me to join them. I signed a four-fight deal with them and I fought this year. Actually, it was short notice and we took the opportunity."

"I'm trying to again fight either in November or December this year. We're still negotiating for me to be included in another event later this year," said Camacho, who used to be a CNMI junior golfer along with now Rev. Fr. James Balajadia.

Camacho is also not the first from the Marianas to have the chance to be featured in a UFC fight event.

"We also found out that I'm not the first in the Marianas to fight professionally in UFC. We found out that Anthony Torres was the first to ever fight in UFC. He was born and raised here on Saipan and moved to Hawaii where he is now based," said Camacho.

Torres, known as "The Crush," fought in the undercard bout of UFC Fight Night 6 on Aug. 17, 2006 at the Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. He opened the event against Pat Healy winning by rear-naked-choke submission with 2:37 in the first round.

Torres holds a pro record of five wins and three losses with two of his victories by KO and another two by submission. He has not fought since losing by decision to Josh "Killa" Calvo (9-4 with 1 win by KO and six by submission) in PXC 38 in Guam last Aug. 9, 2013.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	88	64	.579	—
New York	85	67	.559	3
Tampa Bay	74	78	.487	14
Baltimore	73	80	.477	15½
Toronto	71	81	.467	17

Central Division

x-Cleveland	95	57	.625	—
Minnesota	78	74	.513	17
Kansas City	74	77	.490	20½
Detroit	62	90	.408	33
Chicago	60	91	.397	34½

West Division

x-Houston	93	58	.616	—
Los Angeles	76	75	.503	17
Texas	75	76	.497	18
Seattle	74	78	.487	19½
Oakland	69	83	.454	24½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	92	59	.609	—
Miami	72	80	.474	20½
Atlanta	67	83	.447	24½
New York	65	87	.428	27½
Philadelphia	61	91	.401	31½

Central Division

Chicago	84	67	.556	—
Milwaukee	81	71	.533	3½
St. Louis	79	72	.523	5
Pittsburgh	69	84	.451	16
Cincinnati	66	86	.434	18½

West Division

z-Los Angeles	96	56	.632	—
Arizona	88	65	.575	8½
Colorado	82	70	.539	14
San Diego	68	84	.447	28
San Francisco	60	93	.392	36½

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

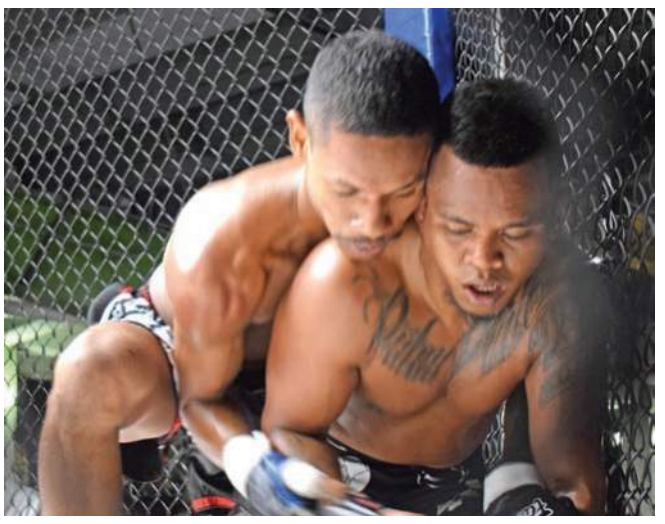
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 22: Rampage

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho enters the eight-sides as fighters are being introduced one at a time in last week's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Perry Mundo of Team Tinian, left, tries to evade the attack of L.D. Ogo of Luta Top Team.



Jordan "The Machine" Manglona, left, pins McKlane Alfred at the corner.

Derrick Evangelista of Guam Muay Thai, right, and Independent fighter Railey Miwata exchange punches.

Robert "The Deal Wusstig of Guam poses for photographers after defending his Trench Warz lightweight title against Min Gu Lee of Korean Top Team.

Sang Hyun Park of Team Ace MMA, bottom, uses the triangle move in trying to force Rota's Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama of Steel Athletics Guam.

Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, top, uses the rear-naked-choke move in forcing Robin Eclavea to submission.

Robin Eclavea of Guam, left, congratulates Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, second left.

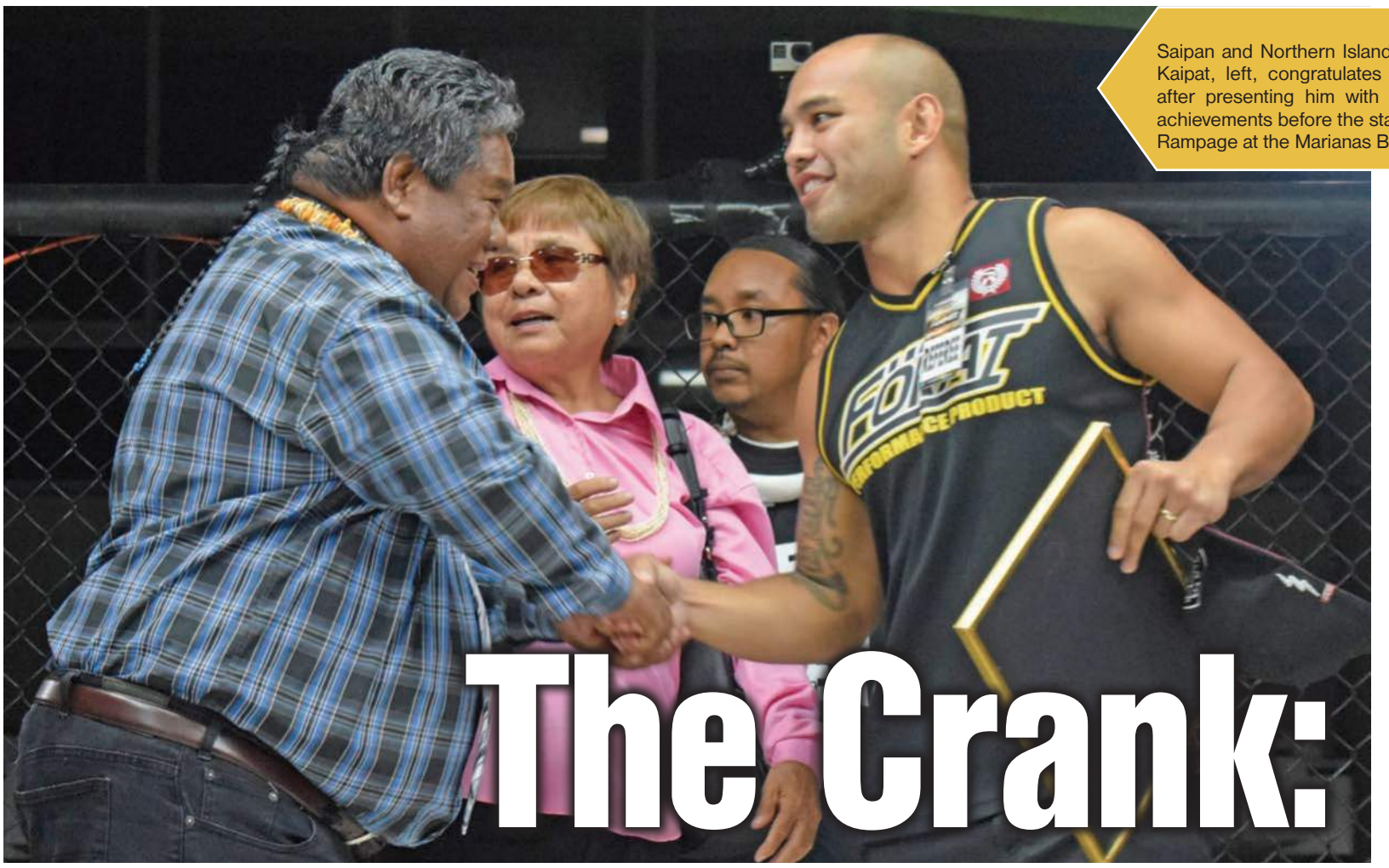
Sale reaches 300-strikeout mark in MLB

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vikings QB uncertainty: Bradford says knee is 'better'

PAGE 29



JON PEREZ

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council vice chair Diego Kaipat, left, congratulates Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, after presenting him with a special resolution recognizing his achievements before the start of last week's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot in Susupe.

The Crank: I'm here to inspire others

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho has come a long way with his mixed martial arts career since making his debut more than 10 years ago inside a rectangular cage for the first MMA event on Saipan at the old Trench Tech Gym in Gualo Rai.

He has fought in a number of MMA events on Saipan and Guam—Trench Warz, Rites of Passage, Pacific Xtreme Combat, and Gerran Haga—and in the Universal Reality Combat Championship in the Philippines.

The 28-year-old Camacho (20-5 with 15 of his wins via knockout and three by submission) also took some time off from fighting and even moved for a few years to Camp Springs in Maryland to train under legendary Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructor Lloyd Irvin.

But his goal was to finally make it to the Ultimate Fighting Championship stage, which became a reality on June 17 this year when he was among the 11 undercard bouts in UFC 111: Holly Holm vs. Bethe Correia main event at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Kallang, Singapore.

Camacho faced Jingliang "The

See THE CRANK on Page 30

Peleliu, Brotherhood still on top

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A Brotherhood-Peleliu finals showdown is slowly shaping up in the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League after both teams dispatched their respective rivals in contrasting fashion last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Brotherhood hardly broke a sweat in winning by default against Sufa, while Peleliu made short work of Momma Charu, 14-3, to remain tied on top of the standings both with 12-1 slates. Momma Charu dropped to 8-5.

Mabel Ngirngemelas led Peleliu's hit parade going perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, with two runs including a home run and three RBIs, while Rush Kintaro went 2-for-2 on a homer and a double with two runs and two RBIs.

Dominic Hideo and Charles Kenty each went 2-for-3 with the former scoring twice on two doubles and an RBI, while the latter had one run and two RBIs.

In the other games, Kani completed a 24-12 decision against Red Torch, while Asahi's match against the S.A. Masters was rained out and will be scheduled at a later date.

Taylor Germance showed why he is the current home run king and RBI leader in Kani's win. He finished 3-for-4 with three runs and blasting his 14th home run in the season and had three RBIs to hike his record to 43.

Dominic Masaharu went perfect with a 4-for-4 stint at the plate with three runs, a double, and three RBIs.

Demapan is SGA August Ace

Joe Demapan was hailed the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of the Month for August after firing a net score of 70 last Aug. 27 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Demapan bested a field of 18 after shooting a gross score of 84. The 14-handicapper had a 41 in the front nine before finishing up with a 43 in the back.

Nick Sablan and Alex Tudela finished tied for second with their identical scores of 72, but veteran national golfer Sablan took second after beating Tudela in the scorecard tiebreak. It actually took two playoff holes to break the tie.

Sablan had a gross score of 77, which minus his 5 handicap, gave him the 72, while the 12-handicapper Tudela had similar scores of 42s in the front and back.

Demapan now joins Frances Sablan (January), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Juan Lizama (March), Nick Sablan (April), Larry Deleon Guerrero (May), Das Krishnan (June), and Steve Balakrishna (July) in the 2017 SGA Ace of the Month.

In the longest drive, Nick Sablan won in hole No. 7, while Tudela was the best in hole No. 14.

In the closest to the pin, Alex Tudela won in hole No. 6, Das Krishnan in hole No. 8, Attorney Genera Edward Manibusan in hole No. 12, and Jess Castro in hole No. 15.

The September SGA Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled this Sunday, Sept. 24, at Coral Ocean Point Golf Course. Showtime is 8:30am with a tee time of 9:30am. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Lieto impressive in Falcons win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frankie Lieto had an impressive showing on the mound, pitching three complete innings in relief to lead the Falcons to a 3-2 win over the Blue Jays last Tuesday night in the Under-25 division of the Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Lieto had a no-hitter and struck out 10 of the 11 batters he faced in leading the Falcons to its second straight win and tie the C.K. Cubs for the early lead in the four-team field. The Pirates is the other team playing in the youth league.

Lieto forced Davy Matagolai to ground out to first with Henry Aguon there to make the tag for the final out of the game. He relieved Kekuni Kai'noa after he

See LIETO on Page 30

JON PEREZ

Frankie Lieto had another impressive performance on the mound in the Falcons' victory against the Blue Jays in the Saipan Baseball League's Under-25 division last Tuesday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.